

BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine

Nr 15: November - December 2013

Holiday edition

**Fashion
& features**

Doctor Who
Christmas

Interviews

Rouge Aerie Designs

Rose Noire

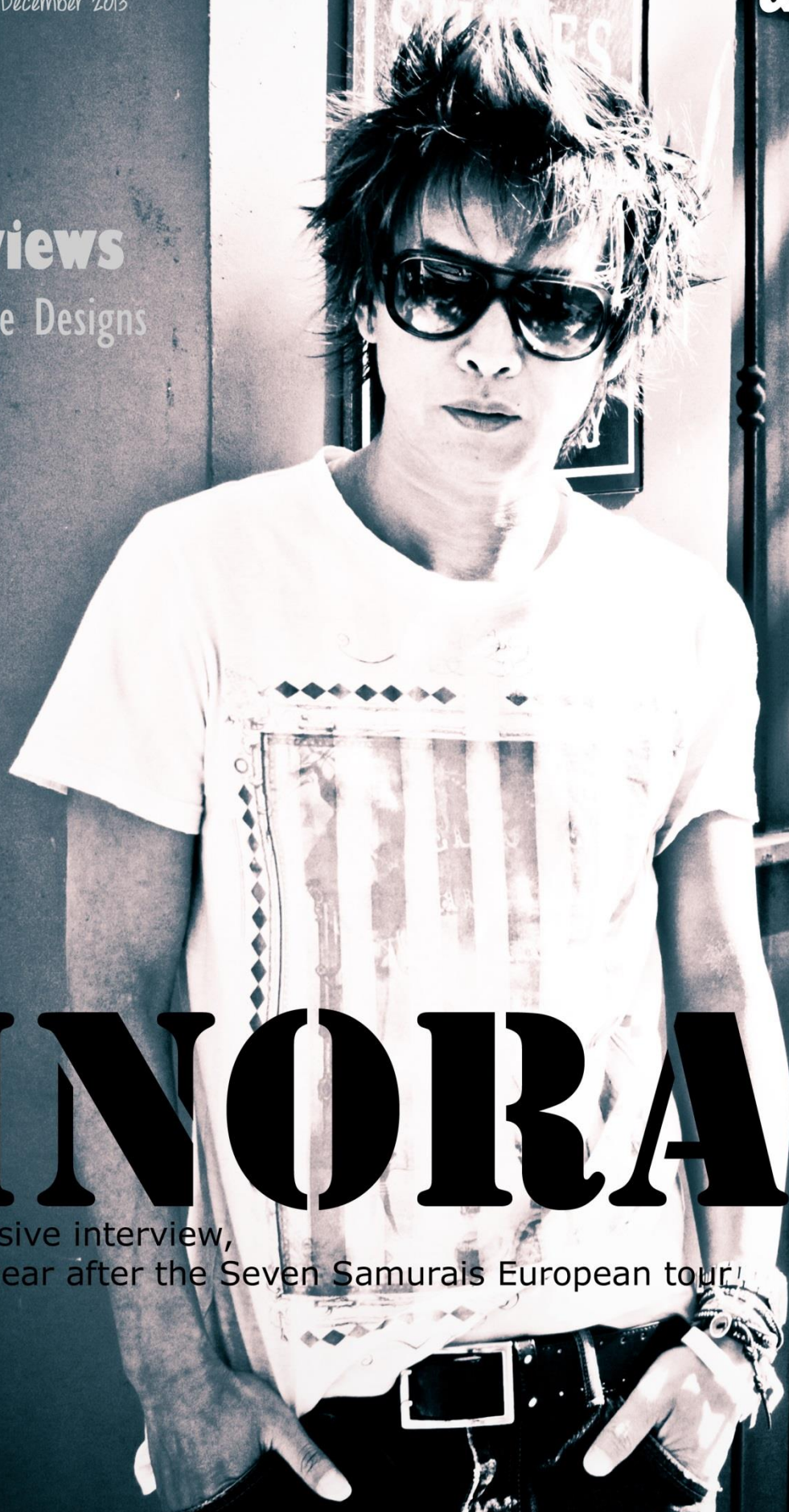
eleanor

Capella

ADAMS

INORAN

Exclusive interview,
one year after the Seven Samurais European tour



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Photographers: Babs Barning, Stoff im Gehirn, Bert Van den Wyngaert, Clara Lina Wirz

Special thanks to: Helcanen, Kiwamu Kai of Starwave Records, King Records, Râmen Events

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we cannot and will not be held responsible for them.

INTRODUCTION

Hello everyone!

Here's a Halloween release for the holiday season! Happy Halloween and merry whichever end of year holiday you chose to celebrate! I know that as far as the year's end is considered we're a mite early but that's what you get with bi-monthly releases!

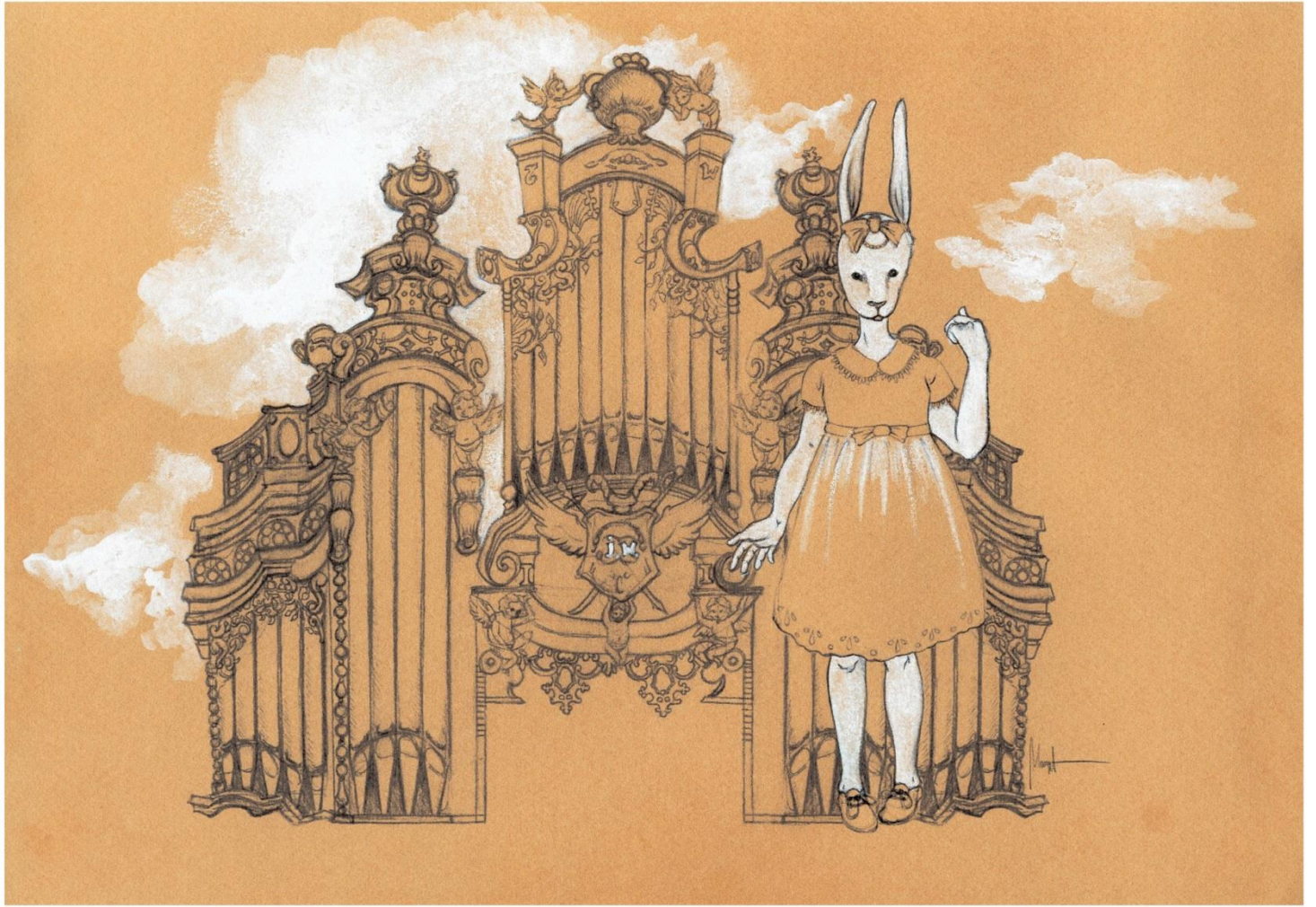
This time 'round we bring you J-fashion, in Christmas and Whovian style. Event reviews of events in both Belgium and the rest of Europe, including major Lolita events Frock On! And the very first ever European Innocent World tea party! But of course it doesn't end there, there's many more events to read about and of course: live reports!

And where there's lives there's band interviews. Speaking of which, we not only sat down with several different styles of musical artists, most noteworthy our cover artist INORAN, whom we caught up with a little over a year we last spoke to him solo during his very first European tour, titled Seven Samurais, as well as several other awesome musical acts. But also with the talented Kate of fabulous indi brand Rouge Aerie Designs.

This and much more makes up our already 15th edition of BCM. I hope you'll all enjoy reading and perusing it! Thank you to my entire crew and all the readers, because without you I couldn't make this magazine happen! You're all awesome.

Happy holidays everyone!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in Chief



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AS FAR AS HOLIDAYS GO, CHRISTMAS IS PROBABLY THE MOST VERSATILE TO DRESS UP FOR, AS YOU CAN RANGE YOUR OUTFIT FROM CASUAL WITH VERY SUBTLE HOLIDAY DETAILS TO AS OVER THE TOP AS THE MOST OPULENT CHRISTMAS TREE.

YOU CAN GO TRADITIONAL OR NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS STYLE AND ANYTHING IN BETWEEN. FROM CLASSIC TO MODERN, THE PROVERBIAL SKY IS INDEED THE LIMIT THANKS TO THE WIDE VARIETY OF SYMBOLS AND ASSOCIATIONS MADE WITH THIS PARTICULAR END OF YEAR HOLIDAY.

It is important to first decide what direction you want to take your outfit, and then to make sure that it doesn't become costumy. Over the top is great of course, but there are limits. Make sure to go for classy elements in your accessories, note that these do not have to be expensive as the cheap and tacky will only diminish your outfit and make it gimmicky, which is definitely not the desired result.

So unless they suit your style, instead of of kitchy headwear such as e.g. reindeer horns, choose something more in the style of the very nicely styled (floral) antlers that are currently popular with many J-fashion styles. If you're a bit handy you will be able to make yours very easily yourself. Basically if you're going for anything traditionally associated with Christmas, bare in mind to balance it well, it can become too much very quickly, especially when combining Santa hats, etc. It can be done and it can work, just do it with care! If don't well it's awesome, if not it's more like a costume than a coord. Also avoid mixing too many elements together, for the same reason.

Whilst in the past most of the large Japanese brands have released Christmas themed prints or prints suitable for the holidays, it is easy enough to make our own garments if you know how to sew (or know someone that can if you can't yourself). Many (online) fabric stores have a wonderful variety of Christmas fabrics available, suitable for all kinds of J-fashion styles. Especially the large stores will be the likely places to find something catering to any need. Because Christmas is such a big thing in the Western world you will be able to find all kinds of prints, especially

suitable for any and all Lolita styles, even sweet, even though you'll have to look a bit harder for pastel types of Christmas prints of course, but they do exist. And unless you are wearing a style that permits it, do try to avoid the tacky Christmas sweater. There's only so many things it works with.

The best thing to do when creating a Christmas outfit is to limit your themed garments. If you have a main piece with a Christmas print, such as a JSK or skirt, there is really no need to top it off with a themed print top. Whilst it may work perfectly with a blouse in white, red or green, throwing in another print may be rather too much.

Patterned tights are of course subjected to the same rule as always: they need to suit your outfit. If they fit, awesome, if not, loose them.

Make no mistake, you can turn any outfit Christmassy. Even if you wear one of the pastel styles, you can go as far using accessories and repainting Christmas ornaments to use for those.

Vintage and classic Christmas prints can be very suitable for styles such as Dolly-kei and floral antlers, holly accessories and dark reds and greens will do very well with Mori-kei. If you're into bittersweet or gothic varieties, that's not a problem either, plenty of black based prints out there. Or you could choose just a small accent accessory here and there on top of your usual outfit. You'd be surprised how far that takes you.

The great thing about Christmas is that many stores, including high street ones, will jump the bandwagon starting somewhere in November. This means that with minimal time and money, if you're not crafty inclined, you can just go shopping for things.

Cosy woollen scarves or faux fur stoles are always excellent Christmas accessories, provided you get them in colours that match your outfit, and they should be easy enough to find in stores around this time of year. Especially if you look for small Christmas decorations to easily turn into accessories and jewellery. They are often inexpensive and easy enough to find but little touches like that carry our outfit a very long way!

So you see, you can import parts for your outfit from Japan, but you can just as well craft and buy things close to home and don't need to spend a small fortune to put together your perfect Christmas coord, no matter what your preferred J-fashion style is.

Article by Hilde Heyvaert and Isabelle. Photography by and provided by Hilde Heyvaert, Saltje Khenfi, Meg, Kara's dad, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen, and Annsio Vermeylen.



Merry
Christmas
fashion!



Christmas themed hair accessories: model's own.
Dress: Emily Temple Cute.
Cardigan: Angelic Pretty.
Tights: Alice and the Pirates.
Shoes: Secret Shop.
Other accessories: model's own





Minnie Mouse eared hairband:
Disneyland Paris.
Frames: Dolce and Gabbana.
Scarf with red glitter: Veritas.
Cardigan and accessories:
model's own.
Wristcuffs and skirt:
House of Secrets Incorporated.
Tights: Veritas.
Shoes: Sasha.



Hat: H&M Girls. Holly hairclip on hat: handmade. Gingerbread man brooch on shawl: Lintje. Shawl: Veritas. Fingerless mittens: H&M. Aviator jacket: H&M. Cardigan: Hema. Faux fur muffler: New Look. Piano bag: Angelic Pretty. Duffy the Disney Bear bag: Tokyo Disney Sea. Hip bag: Zara Girls. Skirt with keys on glitter ribbons print: House of Secrets Incorporated. Underskirt with frill: House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat: Dear Celine. Woolen leggings: Hema. Red woolen socks: Decathlon. Spats: House of Secrets Incorporated. Boots: Kickers.



Bonnet: Angelic Pretty. **Card ring:** Angelic Pretty. **Blouse:** Angelic Pretty. **Skirt:** Angelic Pretty. **Bag:** Angelic Pretty. **Tights:** Alice and the Pirates. **Shoes:** Secret Shop. **Other accessories:** model's own.



Dolly & mori-kei style mix coordinate, making the model look very much like a Christmas angel.
Composed out of thrifted and vintage items, dress: Gunne Sax.



LUNIE
SHOP.com

Lunie Shop

Event: Frock on
When: August 31 (Lolita Convention)
September 1 (Tea Party)
What: Lolita convention and tea party
Where: One Whitehall Place - London - UK (convention)
Hotel Rubens - London - UK (tea party)
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: <http://teapartyclub.doomby.com>



London, Saturday, August 31st; *One Whitehall Place*,
Sunday, September 1st, *Hotel Rubens*.
Words that have kept me and many other girls really excited.
We all were planning, saving, and working hard on our outfits!
When the day came, you could just feel the magic and excitement
in the air!

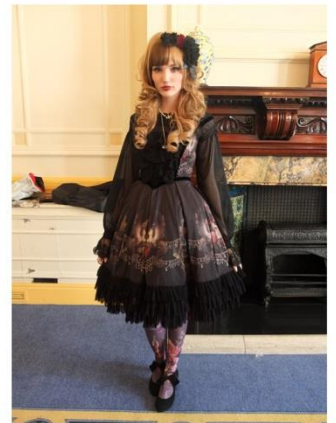
Frock On is not just a one day event, it is an event that takes
about three to four days for most girls!
Going to London, getting settled in at your hotel and do some
shopping.
The following day going to the Frock on convention, and the next
day the Frock On Tea Party!



Frock On itself, for me, was pure magic! The setting was great!
It was so beautiful. The instructions to get there you got via the
Facebook page and their website were really clear so it wasn't hard
to find the location at all. Once you were in the neighbourhood,
you could just feel that the location was going to be really classy
and chic! I myself had gotten earlybird tickets and I was really
happy that I got my hands there!

Every single girl I saw at Frock looked epic! All the coordinates
were so lovely and I could enjoy seeing all the outfits. Everyone
really looked their best!

At the event itself there was a huge room with all the designers
and indie designers. It was just a huge feast for my eyes!
From Sweet to Gothic and Punk, all Lolita styles were represented!
In a second room there was a runway and in a third room there
was a bring-and-buy where you could score really great deals!
Or I did anyway.



There were two fashion shows, one before lunch and one after!
Both really well coordinated and timed.
The only minor bug in the whole event that I can think of was the
time between the fashion shows! We had about an hour to go out
and grab something to eat. Many girls were late to get back be-
cause there wasn't a lot to eat in the area of the event. And even
with almost everyone being late, they started the show anyway!

There were also several workshops you could participate in during
the afternoon. They were all kinda funny and playful. Nothing too
serious and nothing hard! But all of them really useful and handy!

Towards the end there was a huge raffle and many girls won a
little or bigger gift! I personally won a poster that I gave to a
younger girl, who was super happy with it! The prizes were all
spectacular and the first prize was a full outfit. I could only envy
the girl that won this lovely price!

After the event, there was a dinner planned but in the end it didn't
happen and we ended up in small groups and all going our
different ways!



PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSIONS OF FROCK ON

Photography by Vief Cornelissen and Annso Vermeulen.



PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSIONS OF THE FROCK ON FASHION SHOW

Photography by Annso Vermeylen



Event: Cosplay & Manga Convention
When: September 7 - 8
What: J-culture convention
Where: Japanese garden - Hasselt - Belgium
Ticket price: free for cosplayers, € 5 otherwise
Website: it didn't really have one.

My wish from last year had been granted. At the 7th and 8th of September the Japanese garden in Hasselt was the venue for the second edition of the *Cosplay & Manga Convention*. Sadly enough the second edition wasn't better than the first one. This year, there was less of everything.

First of all, there wasn't a cosplay competition, which following the name of the convention would be one of the things people would expect there to be. As a replacement they decided to just have a cosplay runway show which isn't quite the same as a competition right?

A lot of the other activities were also cancelled. There wasn't a bring & buy stand anymore and now there wasn't any place to buy your favourite manga or find just that cheap merchandise you couldn't leave behind. There weren't any lectures anymore, instead they replaced it with a big food stand where you could get a big or small cup of ramen. This was one thing that was lacking last year so they have dealt with that. You could also get bubble tea, sushi and even small *taiyaki* (a fish-shaped pastry filled with red beans) freshly made while waiting. Next to this there was a stand where you could make bracelets or learn *furoshiki* (wrapping different objects with a cloth) and another place where you could buy a limited number of items. The *taiko* drums were also represented but instead of letting you join in a drumming experience like last year, they only gave a couple of shows.

Another thing this convention, like other conventions, should deal with, are rude photographers who take your picture without asking when you're eating or having a chat with friends. It doesn't take a lot to just ask people for a picture. They will pose for you and you will have a more wonderful picture than you would have taking one while that person's eating. Some went as far as shoving their big-ass camera into a friend's face with a rude remark while we stated he could ask for permission!

On the positive side, nothing can top the extreme beautiful environment this convention is held in. This Japanese garden is the largest in Europe. This year it was another good weather weekend, perfect for spending outside in the sun! So I'd say, if you have a day off and you want to enjoy cosplaying, hanging out with friends or wandering in a pretty garden, come and check out the Cosplay and manga convention in Hasselt. As for the next edition, let us hope they read this review and will tweak a couple of things to turn it into an awesome convention!

Review by Valerie Vliegen. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Lisbet.





Event: Elfia (formerly known as Elf Fantasy Fair) Arcen
When: September 14 - 15
What: Fantasy Fair
Where: castle gardens, Arcen, The Netherlands
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.elfia.com

This latest edition of *Elfia* (formerly known as *Elf Fantasy Fair*) Arcen, themed *Dragons & Hobbits*, once again took place on the beautiful grounds of the Dutch Arcen castle. Despite of the weather not being as good as anyone had hoped, masses of costumed and regular dressed guessed braved the wind, occasional rain and mud for a fun fantasy weekend.

Even though Elfia profiles itself as a fantasy fair, it has long outgrown just that aspect and offers a wide variety of things aside from their main genre, as it has done for several years. And whilst Arcen is generally seen as the smaller sister of the better known *Elfia Haarzuilens* which traditionally takes place in April, it is definitely not inferior to the elder event, quite on the contrary. Where Haarzuilens is clearly just getting along on it's name alone without doing any proper effort to be a properly good event, Arcen tries it's best, and largely succeeds, to present the visitor with not only a wide variety of things to see and do, but also with a fun and friendly atmosphere one hopes to encounter when attending a pricier event.

The grounds of Arcen castle are beautiful and diverse, ranging from traditional rose gardens to dark and almost Gothic corridors and walkways, all kinds of forest areas, Victorian pond areas and terraces to several kinds of Oriental gardens. They even have some lovely animal areas with storks, cormorants and even squirrel monkeys around and for the children a nice playground, which was sadly not the best place to be in this weather. Aside from all the outdoors beauty there is also a fabulous indoors greenhouse garden with a large koi pond. You can see koi fish swim throughout all the streams in the compound, but it seems that the largest group had congregated inside, which is unsurprising if you consider there was a 20 cent fish food dispenser available and plenty of people were happy to spend some coins to present the colourful fish with dinner.

Traditionally that same greenhouse is also the *Sci-fi Deck*, where all kinds of science fiction fandoms congregate, with the *Star Wars* crowds the best represented but definitely not the only ones. It was especially nice to see how several costumers had given their own twist to the *stormtrooper* armour and how they weren't just all clones from each other like you see at Belgian events.

For the fans of J-culture and Asia there was the *Oriental Spheres* area, and aside from that there was the *Steampunk Zone* with both *The Steampunk Objective* and *Steampunk Expeditions Gesellschaft*, a pirate camp, *Hobbit Parc*, and much, much, more to not only see, but also partake in.

Aside from the actual stages, there were musicians, storytellers and parades spread throughout the entire event, either on little stages or roaming the grounds, entertaining visitors that preferred to be on the move rather than spend prolonged times near the stages. On top of all of that there were various workshops from dance to fire breathing and lots in between, lectures and a costume competition to participate in.

As usual a large field was the centre of the event, where most of the food and drink stands were gathered as well as a fair deal of the shops. Where in lovely weather this would have been an awesome area, due to the mud and occasional bouts of rain (which thankfully were few and far between and didn't last long) most people enjoying a bite or drink had fled and huddled together under the tents. Thankfully these were many and provided covered seating to a fair amount of people.

The weather brings me to the one major downside to the event: the mud. Of course the organisation isn't responsible for whether it'll be nice out or rubbish outside, but that doesn't mean they could have foreseen this and made moving about a little more comfortable. Whilst all the main roads are definitely the kind of walkway that can withstand heavy rains, the fields very quickly became a muddy mess. Whilst the organisation did their best to provide narrow walkways right outside the stands, this just wasn't enough. You can't expect literally hundreds of people to properly move over little improvised roads that were just a yard wide. Surely they could have build wider ones to avoid forcing others into the mud because people will be people and they will stop and clog up the area to talk. Plus sometimes they just had to stop to be able to see what a shop was selling or wait a little to get into the larger shops. So please, wider improvised roads on the fields next time and the event will be absolutely brilliant, and next time, install all of them before the event starts rather than backing spaces up during.

Muddy inconvenience aside, Elfia Arcen was a fantastic event to attend. Visitors were friendly, and those not wearing costumes were very open-minded and accepting to those that did, a sharp contrast to many events in Belgium.

The general atmosphere was fantastic, and there was so much to see or do there was something for everyone, making this one of the best events of 2013 so far.

Review by Babs Barning, Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
 Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSIONS OF Tokyo Crazy Kawaii Paris

September 20 - 22, Parc Floral, Paris, France

Photography by and provided by Lunie.



HARAJUKU FASHION WALK PARIS

Saturday, September 21; Avenue des Champs-Élysées, Paris, France

Photography by Lunie.



PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSIONS OF THE Tokyo Crazy Kawaii Paris FASHION SHOW

Sunday, September 22 - Parc Floral - Paris - France

Photography by David Pleszak



Event: Chibi Kamecon
 When: September 22
 What: J-culture convention
 Where: Zaal Daverlo, Assebroek, Belgium
 Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
 Website: www.kamecon.be

Chibi Kamecon 2013 was the first edition of a new initiative held near Bruges, providing that end of the country with its own, albeit much, much smaller, alternative to other Belgian J-culture conventions. Occupying one hall of the *Daverlo* complex in Assebroek the organisation had set up for a day of friendly Japanese inspired fun.

Now first let me say that I applaud the organisation for setting up Chibi Kamecon. It had an easy going and friendly atmosphere that you come to expect from a convention. It had some stores and stands of the better known Belgian J-culture organisations *Râmen Events*, who are responsible for getting Japanese artists to perform in Europe and at events such as *Made in Asia*, and *Nippon Zasshi*, the Belgian J-culture blog/event organisers, amongst others. As well as a handful of shops that offered some pretty neat things. It did seem to me, however, that the people coming to Chibi Kamecon were, contrary to visitors of many other conventions, more interested in hanging out, the gaming station, card game area or cosplaying. Which was understandable with such a limited dealing room and the small size of the event.

I did like that they did a proper effort on the program. Aside from catering to card gamers by giving them a separate area and setting up the gaming station they had a cosplay competition and workshops, which had a sizeable participation for an event that small. Nippon Zasshi ran a session of their signature take on the game *Werewolves: Attack of the Oni*. Added to all of that the weather was nice, making the outside area an added fun environment for people to hang out in the sunshine, which was an added natural bonus to the good times going on inside.

Food wise there was none available at the convention itself, instead people had to go to the cafeteria on site. Which was alright price wise if you just wanted a drink, but if you wanted food the offer was limited and in many cases ridiculously overpriced. So a warning for those attending next year: bring your own.

Aside from some glitches in communication, which are not abnormal from a first time event (such as the lack of info on the website about the address, how to get there, etc, don't just rely on Facebook people!), my one real regret is about the venue. Other than the food issue, Daverlo is a venue that is very difficult to reach by public transport if you're not from around in the area and don't have a car (but if you do, the parking lot is free and more than large enough to cater to those driving in). Whilst the complex is a nice venue, I'm not sure that for a convention in this format it will remain suitable and accommodate the growth of the con at the same time due to its location and size. I understand it's choice for the first time of the event, I'm just not sure that staying there is a good plan for the future of Chibi Kamecon (unless they forever want to be the fun and small mini convention of course).

Whilst this was very much a "local con", they did profile it as being a Belgian con, which didn't quite feel that way once you arrived there from a different province and had spent _at least_ 2 hours (each way) to get there. So that was a bit of a shock seeing we didn't really what to expect size wise. But like I said before: all beginning is difficult, and the atmosphere was nice, so they're off to a decent start at least. I must say I am curious how this convention will grow in the future.

For a first time, the organisation did a good job and from where I was standing, it seemed like visitors had a genuine good time. If they take the glitches into account and continue to move forward, this could become an event that really ends up on the yearly agenda of Belgian J-culture events.





Event: the annual Halloween season
When: October 5 - 31
What: Halloween at the Disneyland Park
Where: Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.disneylandparis.com

At Casey's Corner Costume Couture Minnie Mouse greets guests in a brand new witch costume and sewing workshop that has been installed for the occasion, just like Goofy's little candy factory.

Several times a day, Main Street is also the location for a brand new autumnal cavalcade titled *Mickey's Halloween Celebration*. Don't let the name fool you, this is strictly a harvest type thing. Regardless, it's brand new, features brand new music and some rare characters you don't generally see in Disneyland Paris. As well as themed dancers that accompany the float and the return of the much missed actual character pumpkin people. They weren't available for meet and greets when we were there, but we can but hope they'll return for that too (and the witches as well actually).

Frontierland features all the Halloween décor of last year, but just like the ghosts on Main Street, things have become decidedly more orange. The more human hands and feet of the pumpkin people have been replaced by more otherworldly leafy limbs, which actually works really well. And on the *Jack Skellington* (and if you're very lucky Sally's there as well) meet and greet area Zero has moved down a little on the building and a monster fountain has been added. All the Halloween meet and greet areas now come with their own specially themed giant parasols as well. So the changes may seem small, but in reality they are quite significant.

Several restaurants (indicated on the free plans and maps you can get at the park entrance) and stores sold Halloween themed foods and goods. It has to be said that whilst there were some new things, it was largely the same merch over and over again, a malaise that seems to strike the parks more and more, especially now that a significant part of the things on sale are those you can get in a regular (online) Disney store as well.

One thing must be noted, the earlier into the season you go, the less things will actually be in full swing. Characters won't be out as long and *Disney Village* won't have joined in 'till the 3rd week of the season. Which I find lacking on Disneyland Paris' part as all Halloween things should be available from the start of the season, and not just seeping in throughout.

To conclude: the change and additions, both overall and in the ghost and pumpkin people statues, were a really nice touch that really contributed to the overall atmosphere of the season.

It is, however, a very family friendly and politically correct autumnal harvest type of Halloween affair. Nice as it is, it is still a far cry from the ram-bunctious pumpkin people filled spooktacular extravaganza the event used to be.

It's not bad now, it's just very, very different from what it once was. But regardless it is still a lot of fun and despite the lack of shows this year. I think Disneyland Paris is well on the way to having a truly spooktacular Halloween season again like they did from 2005-2009.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
 Photography by Dan Brace of www.charactercentral.net and Hilde Heyvaert.

This year's Halloween season at the *Disneyland Paris' Disneyland Park* was on one hand quite akin to that of last year, but at the same time it was very different.

Aside from the *Villains Mix and Mingle* and *The Fabulous Halloween Swing Orchestra* which both happened in *Fantasyland's Castle Courtyard* (the square in between the back of the castle and *The Carousel of Lancelot*) and the *Fantasyland Castle Stage* dressed up for the season even though there is no show there this year, that was all there was to it in Fantasyland, leaving, some billboards on the esplanade and specific merchandise and Halloween menus in some other stores and restaurants throughout the park, the traditional lands of Main Street USA and Frontierland the go to places for Halloween kicks. So it is on those two I will focus on this review as this is, quite obviously, a piece on the Halloween season.

Entering the Disneyland Park you can simply not miss the fact that it's the Halloween season, each of the Victorian styled buildings comes not only with cheerful 1880-1920s styled Jack o' Lanterns, which may or may not fit the building they are placed on but also with their own ghost. And each and every ghost does match their building.

Town Square, a meeting place for guests has its own spectral marching band all over the gazebo, no doubt to match *The Disney Octoween Brass Band* that performs there. Add to that other ghosts, lovely lanterns and a wide array of pumpkins: both regular and Mickey eared and you get a veritable feast for your eyes. The vehicles going from *Town Square* to *Central Plaza* are all decorated in theme. Not only does every single old timer have his own themed décor (the Paddy wagon features a ghostly beat cop, the firetruck a fireman and so on) but every single horse pulling a horse drawn streetcar (a Victorian tram) has his very own costume, which differs from horse to horse. Even their hooves are sprayed orange.

The Halloween decorations aren't all there is happening on Main Street. At both entrances to the arcade you can meet characters in Halloween costumes, *Pumpkin Duffy* at the entrance to the *Liberty Arcade* and *Goofy Bonbons* at the entrance of the *Discovery Arcade*



PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSIONS OF HALLOWEEN ON MAIN STREET USA

Photography by Dan Brace of www.charactercentral.net, Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



© Dan Brace
www.charactercentral.net

© Dan Brace
www.charactercentral.net

PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSIONS OF HALLOWEEN IN FRONTIERLAND

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSIONS OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN INNOCENT WORLD TEA PARTY

Saturday, October 12 - Schick Hotel Stefanie - Vienna - Austria

Photography by Aniso Vermeylen.



Event: FACTS
When: October 19 - 20
What: Pop culture convention
Where: Flanders Expo, Ghent, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.facts.be

It was the 20th anniversary edition of the well-known popular culture convention FACTS this year and a lot of people had great expectations for it after last year's pretty awesome edition. We went on Saturday, so our review is of course based on that day alone. It's definitely not so that FACTS didn't try to put up a good event this year. There were screenings, workshops, meet and greets, workshops and many cool try-outs in the *Fan Village*, gaming area and *Little Japan*. The main issue was simply the crowds. There were a hell of a lot of cool things but the area was simply too packed to properly participate or heck, even be able to find them. FACTS would have really benefitted from the things on offer in a larger space so people could actually participate properly and see what was going on.

Whilst this year there were a lot of cool new things on sale and it for once wasn't the offer of the popular thing of the month, it was nigh impossible to properly see what was going on and what was on sale. I did like that FACTS tried to anticipate the crowds and had set up an info booth in the slightly less populated areas right at the back as well. Which were pretty much the only areas you could move around without being squished by the immense crowds at each step you took.

Aside from the crowds, the main downside to the event was the infernal heat! I've been to conventions equally crowded in summer and they were less boiling hot inside. I get it, it's a great way to allow people to wear their favourite geek t-shirt, but it's also a sure way to get people feeling unwell from the temperature. And it's not like it's easy or affordable to get a cool drink to help you deal with the temperature either, because the food and drink prices were once again really steep. And whilst you are allowed to bring your own food and drink, it would be nice if people could get something cool and fresh that doesn't cost an arm and a leg for once. The other issue was that if you had food and drink, there was hardly any room to sit to consume it despite the available cafeteria. Seeing there were so few seating areas, people just crowed up the dining area. There were a few patches that had been left unclaimed by a stand turned into a chill zone but area was limited and the carpet less than clean in the Saturday afternoon. Would it really kill the con to have an extra hall just for people to be able to sit down? I don't believe it would, but it would really improve the visitor experience.

Crowd and heat woes aside, there were a lot of cool things to see and do this edition. As always FACTS had a variety of artists to welcome to give people the opportunity to meet their idol. There was a cosplay competition on Saturday that lasted several hours (and sadly was once again far too loud, so loud that it rather ruined the atmosphere of *Little Japan*).

There were loads of things to see and do (if you had the chance at least because of the crowd). But this year, because of the crowd that made it hard to do things, it was mainly a shopper's kind of convention. If you were collecting something or other, you had a really good chance to find it at this convention. Due to the large variety of fandoms present, you also had a good chance of meeting like-minded individuals, which was another bonus.

Frankly, whilst FACTS did have so many positive points this year, the heat and vast crowd ruined it a little sadly. Which is a pity, because if these two hadn't been an issue this would have been a great convention. So hopefully next year these things will be taken into account and things will go much smoother, making the experience much more pleasant.



Event: Metal Female Voices Fest
When: October 18 - 20
What: Female fronted metal festival
Where: Oktoberhallen, Wieze, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.facts.be

You're probably wondering why we are reviewing a Metal music festival. Well not only are there a lot of Metal lovers amongst the Belgian J-culture community but also the Japanese band *eleonor* was gracing the stage on Sunday for a concert. (You can read the review of that concert further on in this issue as this review is solely about the festival itself). It was already the 11th edition and seeing it was my first time there I can't compare but I can say that I was very impressed by how well organised and fantastic this event was.

Not only did they program a very wide variety of metal genres on the line-up which attracted a very diverse metal audience, but they also had a very friendly, and open minded audience. It didn't matter what type of metal you liked, or how you were dressed (I saw every style from scene to various metal fashions to Gothic fashions, steampunk to believe it or not Classic Lolita!), everyone was united in having a good time, and it was great to see groups of people just standing or sitting together and enjoying themselves. People had no qualms about approaching others and making new friends on the spot, which was just plain awesome.

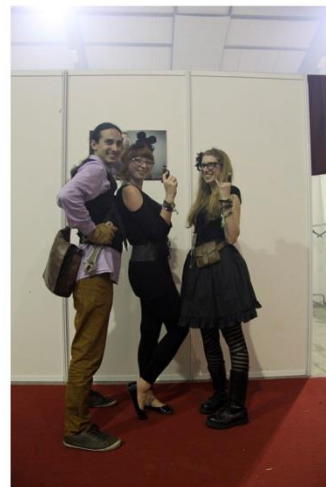
It wasn't just about music either, there were a few vendors set up at the back of the hall, offering a nice variety of goods going from garments to art and Japanese music was sold at at least two different booths. There was ample room for people to sit around and relax. There was quite a large seating area with tables on a side where they could have something to eat or drink and watch the stage at the same time, and there were bleachers at the end of the hall where people could sit and do the same thing.

Food wise you could either get some sandwiches inside or go outside for pasta, fried foods from either the stand at the entrance or the chip shop just outside the parking lot gates or barbeque meats. On the Saturday you could also visit the local supermarket and there were a few cafes nearby offering alternative drinking places. You weren't allowed to bring food and drink inside, and a lot of people solved that by simply going to their car and eating brought food there, which was only a short walk as the parking lot was conveniently right outside of the venue.

A Separate room was organised next to the "dining area", yet still entirely separately, for the autograph signing from several bands and artists presents, the timing conveniently indicated on a sheet right opposite the area.

VIP tickets had been available and these granted access to a room right at the back past the stage where you could sit and relax in a quieter atmosphere. They also had a bar there, so it was easy to get a drink there as well. But mostly it was a good space to just sit down for a bit and hang out with people where it was a bit quieter. It was nearly constantly very loud in the main hall with the stage, which made it a bit difficult to have a conversation. Thankfully the weather was very nice so people could just go outside if they wanted to just talk for a bit.

Overall, this was a truly fantastic event. If you're even vaguely into metal I would recommend it, if you love the genre: don't doubt and just go. They even organise bus transfers from Brussels to the venue, so everyone should be able to get there if they don't drive or have the possibility to get a spot in a car. It's definitely been the very best and friendliest atmosphere I've seen at an event in a long time, and I can really recommend this event.



J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert and Clara Lina Wirz.



ADAMS
"Bittersweet"
Single
Release date: 19.7.2013

The last release of neo-sexual duo ADAMS is a three song single packing a lot more proverbial punch than what we're used of them. Whilst they've always been known as an electro pop vocal & guitar duo, the guitar on this work is much more pronounced and with a far more rock feeling. Making the entire single electro rock rather than pop, often bordering on electro mixed with hard rock. It's a musical evolution which I think suits them well as (hard) rock is a genre that suits the vocals and arrangements much better. I look forward to seeing what they'll have done and how they've continued to evolve on their next release *saseragi* which will be out on November 18.



Gloria in Excelsis
"Opus Dei"
Maxi single
Release date: 19.10.2013

The pretty much only digitally available, except at select events also in limited edition in hardcopy, and the much anticipated follow up to Gloria in Excelsis' more than excellent debut song *Cage*, which is also featured on this five song release. Her very first maxi single features five fantastic metal songs, telling of the story of an angel falling from heaven for the sin of loving another. Her songs are full of feeling, with strong vocals and fantastic music that fits the storyline of the songs and Gloria's voice perfectly. If you love metal, any kind of the genre, this is one of the new artists you should absolutely keep an eye on.



INORAN
"Something about you"
Single
Release date: September 2013

Something about you is the latest two song single by INORAN, a special release for his Japanese tour "MAKE YOU BANG!". True to the tour's name, this particular work contains two passionate, almost introvert at times, beautiful rock songs with English lyrics, full of feeling and emotion. It really is a pity that the release is so incredibly limited, because these are absolute-

ly stunning songs so if you can find an opportunity to get your hands on them when you're an INORAN fan, just do it. Kind as INORAN is, he's released the video clip for the title track on youtube, but the B-side "Black Velvet" remains illusive if you don't own the single. Frankly in my opinion, it's just as good as the A-track and this could easily have been a double A-track release. INORAN once again proves his versatility as a rock artist with this release, and I look forward to what he'll come up with in 2014.



sForzato
"Fallen"
Single
Release date: August 2013

Fallen contains 2 songs, that instantly leave you wanting more of sForzato's strong, melodious, fast paced own mix between hard rock and heavy metal. As far as these bands generally go, I would definitely say sForzato is one of the better ones. Whilst it has all the classic elements of the genres, they have definitely given it their own twist and the band's talent is more than a little obvious. The vocals aren't the best in the business so to speak, but they are nonetheless more than decent and suit the band's sound really well. A recommendation for fans of the genre.



VirusScarlet
"Immortal Crow"
Single
Release date: 2013

VirusScarlet is one of those bands that are heavy on the electronics, bringing back an electronic rock sound reminiscent of the late 90s, with that signature hard rock feel to it that was typical of that age. That said, it doesn't mean they're just a trip through memory lane, they're a strong band in their own right that aren't afraid of releasing their sound in a purely instrumental song, such as the B-track on this two song single: *Virus Hazard*. It sets the tone beautifully for the A-track *Immortal Crow*, where their signature electronic rock sound is coupled by the beautiful singing style of their vocalist who switches from contemporary to operatic in a heartbeat, without faltering and always staying true to the coherency of VirusScarlet's sound. Just so people that don't know them but are familiar with European metal will be able to place them: it's a little bit like *Within Temptations*, but with much more electro thrown in the mix and better vocals.

BLO MEN Z

LIVE AT Tokyo crazy Kawaii Paris

Friday, September 20 - Parc Floral - Paris - France

Photography by David Pleszak



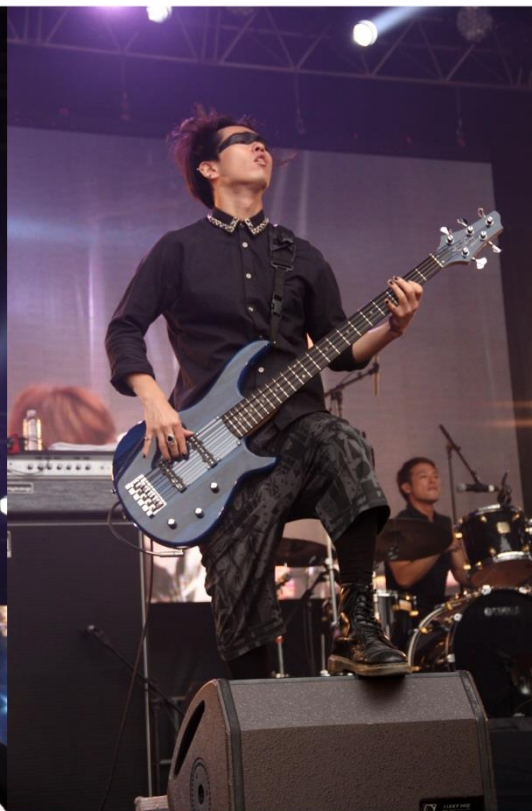


SPYAIR

LIVE AT Tokyo crazy Kawaii Paris

Sunday, September 22 - Parc Floral - Paris - France

Photography by David Pleszak





ANNA TSUCHIYA

LIVE AT Tokyo crazy Kawaii Paris

Sunday, September 22 - Parc Floral - Paris - France

Photography by David Pleszak



CONCERT REVIEW

eleanor

Metal Female Voices Fest XI
Oktoberhallen - Wieze - Belgium
Sunday, October 20 2013

For the first time live in Belgium and in Europe full stop, Japanese Melancholic Gothic Metal (their own description) band *eleanor* took the stage in the afternoon of the last day of the 11th edition of *Metal Female Voices Fest*. Despite being a Japanese band, with Japanese lyrics, they had the crowd on their hand easily and whilst there were about 3-5 rows filled the first two songs, the audience kept on growing and by the end of the concert they had easily gotten 80% of all of those present to come listen to them and enjoying their particular brand of female fronted metal music.

It was clear that the band enjoyed being there just as much as the audience did, and even though there was a bit of a language barrier that still didn't stop singer *Shiori Vitus* to try to tell the gathered metal fans just how much she appreciated being on that big stage and them coming to see them and receiving them so warmly. Much to the pleasure of the crowd who could really appreciate it just as much as their music.

They only played a pretty short set, more of a showcase than an actual concert, and yet it was ample time to introduce listeners to the music of *eleanor* and let them get acquainted to their particular mix of Japanese lyrics and an almost traditionally European Gothic metal sound. They mainly played songs from their last album *Breathe Life Into Essence* as well as some older songs. Overall the setlist was a good mix of newer and older material to give the audience a good overall view of the musical world of *eleanor*.

The concert was very different from the rest of the festival, making it a perfect addition to the line-up and the band did their utmost to dazzle those gathered, in which they succeeded admirably. Let's hope that this performance will pave the way for more European and Belgian concerts so we will be able to see *eleanor* live for more songs and a longer performance.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Special thanks to Helcanen of the MFVF organisation.



J

Tokyo 10 days Ablaze

CLUB QUATTRO - Shibuya - Tokyo - Japan

Thursday, October 23 2013

It was the date of release of his newest full CD: *FREEDOM No. 9* and so in honour of the occasion J not only included the date in his tour schedule but also made sure fans all over the globe could watch the entire concert, encores included, live and direct via nico nico live-stream. Which was mighty nice of him because he doesn't perform with his solo project outside of Asia.

Whilst of course it isn't the same as being there yourself, it is the next best thing and I personally hope he'll repeat the experience in the future at least once every tour.

For the occasion of the new album's release they played six consecutive songs from *FREEDOM No. 9*, which were hailed by the audience with equal enthusiasm as the classics.

It was noticeable that there's a great musical variety in the new material, whilst still staying true to J's signature style where he mixes many of the alternative styles such as grunge, hard rock and post punk into his own particular blend of J-rock.

He doesn't even shy back throwing in a little jazzy influences like in the brilliant *Nightglow* and I noticed that he revamped elements of some of his older songs such as *NOWHERE* and *Drivin' Now* with some heavy metal elements, which really brings them to life when performed during concerts. It's great to see that whilst these songs were released years ago, he doesn't shy back from revisiting them for gig purposes and keeps on improving on his material, whether it's old or new.

There was a distinctive difference between the new and older songs, not that the band enjoyed playing them less, because it was clear they loved being on stage for each and every one of them, but it felt like they weren't quite used to them yet.

So it's just a matter of time I'm sure before they'll sound just as great as classic and well-loved J songs like *BURN OUT* and *Feel Your Blaze*, to name but two of the bunch he played.

The crowd certainly loved the entire concert, and you could see moshing and crowd surfing going on nearly non-stop (and for those into this kind of thing, bare in mind that in Japan these are distinctively "light" versions of European moshpits and surfing, all the hard and heavy we see here is a distinct no go at this type of gig).

Whether it was because the concert was being live streamed I don't know, but the acoustics of CLUB QUATTRO were pretty darn awesome and it was cool to see a concert that was traditionally filmed, so none of that fancy double exposure live feed you see with plenty of other streams.

Another thing I noticed is how much J genuinely cares for his fans. He took ample time to address the audience but really took an extra moment that lasted at least as long as a song to talk to them just before they started playing the encores.

And after the live has ended, cheekily with the seventh and main song from his new album *NEVER END*, he stuck around on stage for a bit to properly say goodbye. It's rare that an artist is that connected with his audience, and it's just great to see.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert.

Setlist:

1. Storm rider
2. Vida Rosa
3. Pyromania
4. Love to Kill (new song)
5. MARIA (new song)
6. Nightglow (new song)
7. Right away (new song)
8. Looser (new song)
9. If you can see me (new song)
10. go crazy

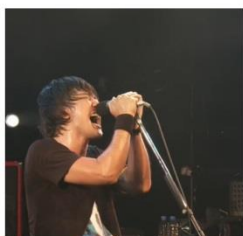
- Scott Garrett's drum solo, consisting of four songs.

-
11. break
12. Go Charge
13. NOWHERE
14. Feel Your Blaze
-

Encores:

J addressing the audience and introducing his band.

15. Drivin' Now
16. BURN OUT
17. NEVER END (new song)





伝説のバンドMALICE MIZERの楽曲をミサルカがカバー! Cover Single [月下の夜想曲] 2013.12.18 Release

SWMR-7 / 発売元:Starwave Records / 販売元:FWD Inc. / 1,260円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚

カバーシングル会場先行発売 4都市ワンマンツアー「Valzer di amore e di tristezza～愛と悲しみのワルツ～」

10.15 (tue) 仙台PARK SQUARE

OPEN: 18:00 / START 18:30 / 前売 ¥500 / 当日 ¥500 (※ドリンク代別¥500) OA: Synk;yet

10.21 (mon) 今池CLUB 3STAR

OPEN: 18:00 / START 18:30 / 前売 ¥500 / 当日 ¥500 (※ドリンク代別¥500) OA: Synk;yet

10.22 (tue) 心斎橋Club ALIVE!

OPEN: 18:00 / START 18:30 / 前売 ¥500 / 当日 ¥500 (※ドリンク代別¥500) OA: Synk;yet

10.27 (sun) 池袋CYBER (二回公演)

第一部 OPEN: 14:30 / START 15:00 第二部 OPEN: 18:30 / START 19:00
第一部&第二部共に前売 ¥3,000 / 当日 ¥3,500 (※ドリンク代別¥600) ※通し券は¥5,000です。

Event Schedule

08.13 (tue) 埼玉会館ホール 08.20 (tue) 今池CLUB 3STAR 08.21 (wed) 心斎橋Club Alive! 08.26 (mon) 仙台MACANA 08.27 (tue) 池袋EDGE
09.04 (wed) 池袋EDGE 09.13 (fri) 池袋CYBER 09.26 (thr) 池袋EDGE 10.7 (mon) 池袋手刀 10.9 (wed) 池袋EDGE 10.31 (thr) 池袋CYBER 11.02 (sat) 池袋CYBER

Release Information



Maxi Single [-Rasen-]
2013.09.25 release

SWMR-6 / 2,100円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚
CD+DVD二枚組仕様 / 販売元:FWD Inc.



1st Mini Album [-Juliet-]

SWMR-5 / 2,940円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚
CD+DVD二枚組仕様 / 在庫残少 / ミニサウンド



1st Full Album [Episodes-Merrow-]

SWMR-3 / 3,500円(税込) / 完全限定1000枚
CD+DVD二枚組仕様 / 在庫残少 / ミニサウンド



<http://misaruka.jp>

ミサルカ ジュリエット

検索

INORAN'S SUMMER AND AUTUMN HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH TOURING HIS HOME COUNTRY OF JAPAN WITH BOTH HIS SOLO PROJECT AND *MUDDY APES*, THE RELEASE OF A FILE BOOK, DOCUMENTARY AND A BRAND NEW, LIMITED RELEASE SINGLE *SOMETHING ABOUT YOU*.

TO TOP ALL OF THIS, HE IS RELEASING A BRAND NEW ALBUM IN THE SPRING OF NEXT YEAR. BUSY AS HE IS, HE STILL FOUND SOME TIME FOR BCM TO TALK TO US ABOUT ALL THESE RECENT MUSICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS.

You've recently released a file book and now the documentary DVD "I'M HERE", which you co-wrote and produced, did you yourself choose images and footage for these?

I chose quite a lot of them myself but also picked up the ones which my staff chose since I think it would be boring if I only chose subjectively.

What made you choose the footage you did?

I first pictured the story in my mind and then chose the images and footage accordingly that were necessary for my story.

Why specifically did you choose to make and release a documentary DVD?

I've been wanting to make a road movie for a couple of years now. I was able to go to Europe for the tour at the right time so I decided to make the movie not just about the tour itself but also my musical life.

When watching "I'M HERE" I noticed how philosophical you are in your narrative. Is philosophy something you are very interested in?

Yes, I'm quite interested in philosophy.

Who is your favourite philosopher?

I don't have a particular favourite at the moment.

At times "I'M HERE" has the same feel as one of those awesome surrealist French films, was that something you intended or just a happy coincidence?

I like surrealism. I think the preference and characteristics of the Japanese are different from Americans but similar to Europeans, though that is my own subjective point of view of course. Therefore I guess that perhaps the influences got through on "I'M HERE".

You were clearly very inspired by the *Seven Samurais* tour, but what do you yourself hope that "I'M HERE" will invoke and inspire in the viewer?

"I'M HERE" is just a story about a musician in a certain sense, but I like the footage and films on which the audience can project themselves even if the lifestyle, background or occupation are different from the person or people in the fragments. I believe and hope that people can watch "I'M HERE" in that way.

Of the entire tour, what were the things and moments you look back on with the most fondness, those you'll never forget for as long as you live?

I should say everybody's passion in each show. By that I mean the passion of the audiences, staff, everybody involved in one way or another you know.

What do you miss most about Europe?

I miss everything...

You did a lot of meet and greets with fans on the tour, which fan was the most memorable and why?

When I had a meet and greet in Milan, there were fans from Sicily who had tattoos of the lyrics for "MOTHER" by LUNA SEA. They said they listened to the song about 15 years ago and were impressed. They continued that they translated the lyrics and once they understood the meaning, they were much more impressed so they decided to get tattooed. It was really impressive to hear that they longed to see me since they have got those tattoos on their body.



You've done an extensive tour in Japan with your solo project as well as some lives with *Muddy Apes*. Will we be able to welcome you back to Europe again soon either solo, with Muddy Apes or with LUNA SEA?

I'll definitely be back, so please look forward to it!

I've noticed that your style varies whether you are not on stage, on stage with your solo project or Muddy Apes and then when on stage with LUNA SEA. How do you decide what to wear for your musical projects?

It's just a feeling. I mean, I decide what to wear according to my mood and never decide things like "I should wear this for ~" or "these are clothes for ~".

If you could choose one designer to work with for a stage outfit you've not worked with yet, who would it be?

I think *Hedi Slimane*, who is a designer for *Yves Saint Laurent*.

It's no secret you love a beer on occasion, which Belgium is famous for so of course we're curious, which is your favourite Belgian beer?

Well, there are so many favourites so that I can't choose one. But I love *Chimay*. And also *Hoegaarden* when it comes to white beer.

The very first time we spoke we talked about the situation with TEPCO, and the lack of transparency on the subject in both Japanese and international press, which is sadly still an issue today, just like global nuclear power use. Could you tell us a little more about how the situation is in Japan at the moment?

I hope it is getting better. Everybody has to do some sort of effort for our bright future.

What kind of direction do you hope Japan will take concerning energy sources for the future?

I hope we can ultimately rely on clean energy, even though that might be costly.

Could you tell us a little about your plans for the end of this year and 2014?

I'm planning to have Muddy Apes shows at the end of the year and then will start recording and hopefully release an album next spring and have a tour again.

This edition of BCM is our annual holiday edition, how would you like to spend your holidays this year?

I want to celebrate joyful Christmas with close mates.

As a closing note, do you have a seasonal (holiday) message for our readers?

I have never been to Belgium before, but it is one of the countries I love to go to. So I'll definitely visit someday, hopefully in the near future and bringing my guitar. See you soon!

Official website: <http://inoran.org>

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/INORANOfficial

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert, Meeve and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography provided by King Records.
Many thanks to INORAN and King Records.



ROSE NOIRE, resurrecting notes...



A LOT HAS CHANGED FOR ROSE NOIRE SINCE THE RELEASE OF THEIR LAST EP SET: *NEO-RENAISSANCE PART 1 AND PART 2*: NEW SUPPORTING MEMBERS, A NEW VERSION OF THEIR SOLD OUT DEBUT ALBUM *APOCALYPSE*, LOOKING CLASSIER THAN EVER AND UPGRADING THEIR SOUND FROM A DUO TO A FULL BAND. ALL THESE THINGS ARE EXCELLENT REASONS TO SPEAK TO JILL AND LOUIE, FOUNDING MEMBERS OF GOTHIC VIOLIN CENTRED BAND ROSE NOIRE AGAIN!

You are re-releasing your hit debut album *APOCALYPSE* in December, could you tell us how this new edition will differ from the original release?

Louie: This time we are re-recording each part and editing some of the synthesiser sounds. And as a special addition some of the tracks are recorded with our supporting members on drums, bass and guitar!

Rose Noire is now also a band aside from only a duo. What made you decide on that change?

Louie: We thought that on stage especially, we can make the concerts sound better as a band as opposed to just the two of us.

Could you say something nice about each of your new band members to introduce them to our readers?

Louie: originally the band members were basically supporting members, but they joined us in our music video for *FEED* and our renewed album *APOCALYPSE*. *tAk* is the bassist, he's such a nice guy that he always makes us laugh and concentrate. *EBISUMARU* is the drummer who is really kind and sincere. And *NEMU* is the guitarist. He has a lot of ideas and rich knowledge.

What, for you personally, is the main difference between performing as a band rather than a duo?

Louie: Playing with a band makes our performance and sound "live".

You both have a very celebrated style and look, which are your favourite designers to wear both on and off stage?

Louie: Thank you for saying that! Our stage costume is by *massaging capsule* and my fave designers are *Christian Dior* and *Vivienne Westwood*. But in actuality I don't care about the brand, I only care whether it suits me.

Jill: Our stage costumes are exclusively made by *massaging capsule*. Their designs are very beautiful and elegant. Off stage I like wearing *Moi-même-Moitié* and *EXCENTRIQUE*. My personal favourite designers are *Vivienne Westwood* and *Jean-Paul Gaultier*.

You have recently collaborated on an armour ring with *Poorman's Gold Label*, could you tell us a little more about that collaboration?

Louie: We were playing at the same live event as *Strange Artifact*, the designers behind *Poorman's Gold Label*. We like their music and fashion so things went from there and since then we've had a good relationship with them!

Do you have other collaborations with artists and designers planned?

Louie: We don't have any more plans at the moment but we'd definitely like to do more collaborations in the future!

Louie, you and NEMU host a talk show on *nico nico*, could you tell us a little more about that?

NEMU is the one that really works on it. For example: he sorts out all the set-up for the broadcasting, the video camera and microphones. I only joined in but I do my best as co-host of the program!

Jill, you are also part of *Ritsu*, could you tell us a little more about that project and the future plans you have with it?

Ritsu (ex. *STALIN*, *LOOPUS*, *bulb* and *T4R*) is a great guitarist and the world he creates is fantastically beautiful. **Ritsu** and I often have a live show and whilst nothing is decided for the future I want to continue making this beautiful world.

Louie, how are you getting along mastering the electric guitar you bought some months ago?

Louie: Hmmmm... I need a great teacher *laughs*. It's difficult because whilst the guitar is similar to the violin it's also very different at the same time.

What's the weirdest gift you have ever received from a fan?

Louie: Fortunately for us we only have fans that give us nice gifts! So we've not received anything weird so far.

Could you tell us a little about your plans for the end of this year and 2014?

Louie: We're going to release a completely new album and we really want to tour abroad!

This edition of BCM is our annual holiday edition, how would you like to spend your holidays this year?

Jill: I still haven't made any plans, but I want to go somewhere far away to a place where it snows. And I want to go relax with my family and friends as well.

As a closing note, do you have a seasonal (holiday) message for our readers?

Jill: May your holidays be happy days filled with love. I wish you all much peace, love and joy in 2014 and that the holidays bring you pleasant memories and much happiness. Keep your eyes on us and please support us! I hope to be able to meet you directly and have a show at your country someday, thank you!

Louie: Maybe it'll happen next year but we'd like to have a show in your countries! See you there face to face *winks*. And I hope you guys have peaceful and great holidays! Thank you!

"APOCALYPSE: The Resurrection of Notes" will be available for sale on December 4 2013.
Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Akio Yokoyama.
Many thanks to Jill, Louie and Kiwamu Kai!



NEO-SEXUAL ELECTRO-POP/ROCK DUO ADAMS CONQUERED THE EUROPEAN J-MUSIC SCENE WITH THEIR TOUR LAST SPRING, AND WILL SOON BE BACK WITH A NEW SINGLE. THEY RECENTLY SIGNED WITH BELGIAN ASIAN MUSIC ORGANISERS RÂMEN EVENTS. CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING, WE SPOKE TO THEM FOR THIS INTERVIEW.



Could you, by way of introduction, say something positive about each other?

Shota: Adam has a great voice, but maybe the greatest thing is that he's a really nice and good person.

Adam: Shota always knows the important things we have to do now: where to go, what to do and how to do it. He's my brain and a nice guy.

How did you come to form ADAMS?

Shota: We met a few years ago when we were playing in the same band in Japan. Unfortunately that project came to an end within a quite short period and everybody took a different way. As for me, I became music producer through my company *HighFEEL Japan*, and Adam wanted to become a solo vocalist. He asked me to produce his project and I said yes. So we started to work together, and finally I added my guitar skills and decided to join Adam in his project, as a band.

How would you say your music has evolved from your first album *NEOSEXUAL* to your singles *Boku no sei / Kimi no sei* and *Bittersweet*?

Shota: *Bittersweet* is the natural evolution from *DIZZY LOVE*, the first single we released. *Bittersweet*'s sound is harder, more aggressive. We did it because we wanted to add a touch of visual kei sound in our tracks. We have lots of fans who like it, and I myself am very fond of 80's visual-kei.

Do you think the life of a musician is bittersweet?

I'm not sure. I don't think so. Because everybody's life is bittersweet, not just that of musicians and artists.

You incorporate the theme of homosexuality in your music and imagery, how would you say that in terms of gay rights, things are for the LGBT community in Japan right now?

My personal opinion is that love doesn't need rights to be real. In Japan and many places in the world the rights for gay people are not the same as in several countries of Europe, for instance. It's a fact. I know a lot of people are fighting to change it, but I'm not a gay rights activist myself. Although I do care a lot about people's feelings.

You use a lot of electronics for your music, which are your favourite pieces of equipment to work with?

That's a secret.

Shota, could you see yourself take the step from a traditional guitar to a computerized one (such as the Misa Kitara which runs on Linux) in the future?

No. Of course I need real guitar sound all the time. Because I'm a guitarist. I use a computer synthesiser, and lots of other electronic things, but the guitar is the only thing that must always be real.

You've toured Europe past Spring, what do you remember most fondly from that tour?

Shota: I have lots of memories. We moved around by car a lot, which was very hard but at the time I enjoyed it. Sometimes we stopped at the fuel stations and it was great to see the wonderful views.

Adam: The last show in The Netherlands, it was an event where nobody knew about us at that time, but when we opened the show, we played a very good concert. Everybody enjoyed, and I was very surprised by their reaction.

How would you say that the European audience differs from the Japanese one?

It's the same but the situation is different. It was our first time in another country so a very special moment. Fans were waiting for us, which was a surprise. Fans are the same everywhere, they're all great!

What's the best and the worst about touring and performing live in your opinion?

The most difficult thing on tour is to stay motivated. We want to give the best possible performance everywhere. It's difficult because we're sometimes tired, and if our performance is not perfect, we feel down. But we must give our best anyway. Good things are of course to see the fans' faces and know their feelings. That's the great thing about going on tour.

You've just joined Hinode Records and Râmen Events for your CD distribution and tours in Europe, what do you expect from these collaborations?

Shota: We hope to gain more fans. And to get more publicity because we want everybody to know ADAMS. In a good or bad way, I don't care, but we need promotion and more people to come to our shows. If they love me, I love them. I want publicity in the visual kei and manga scenes. *HighFEEL Japan* is still a small company, so I chose this collaboration and I expect a lot from it.

Could you tell us a little about your plans for the end of this year and 2014?

We are planning the release of a new album, probably, and have started thinking about the next European Tour. It's still a secret, but it will probably be in spring of 2014. We are continuing creating new songs and PV's. At this time of our project we really want to meet new fans to make ADAMS bigger.

This edition of BCM is our annual holiday edition, so as a closing note, do you have some seasonal (holiday) message for our readers?

Shota: Merry Christmas everyone, I'm Shota! Please keep on following us and let's meet in Europe next spring.

Adam: Have a happy holiday, Eves, we love you, always.

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography provided by Râmen Events.
Many thanks to ADAMS and Aurélie Râmen.



FUN LOVING VISUAL-KEI POP-ROCK BAND CAPELLA HAVE RECENTLY NOT ONLY COMPLETELY OVERHAULED THEIR LOOK BUT ALSO RELEASED THEIR VERY FIRST ALBUM KOKOLOCATE.

WE SPOKE TO VOCALIST BON AND DRUMMER SHOU ABOUT THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

Congratulations on the release of your first full CD Kokolocate, how would you say your music has evolved from when you first started out 'till now?

Shou: It was done naturally without putting in too much conscious effort, because I feel most confident when I am myself.

Bon: For me, I've focussed more on the story, but at the end of the line, it makes me wonder if these really came out of me after all.

What was your biggest inspiration writing and composing the songs on the album?

Shou: We re-recorded the songs because we felt that we could better bring the songs alive.

You have rerecorded songs from previous singles, why did you choose to do this?

Bon: Personally, I've suggested a re-recording of *Gokusai no neko* (Vividly Coloured Cat) to illustrate it's growth along with the story of the album!

The art of your CD cover is beautiful, could you tell us a little more about the artist and how you came to work with them?

Bon: I am a big fan of the artist that graced us with the cover art. I've wanted do a collaboration with such beautiful art, therefore I negotiated directly in person and the artist agreed to draw it for us.

You've recently completely changed your look, what brought on this particular change?

Shou: I wasn't really aware of it. I'm just doing what I think is best at that particular time.

Bon: Yeah, it became like this naturally when we thought of an image that represents ourselves!

Did you come up with your new look yourself? What made you choose this one?

Bon: Capella makes almost all the decisions ourselves, therefore this was no exception.

You are collaborating with Closet Child, could you tell us a little more about that?

Shou: It was a *One-Hour shop assistant* project. For the durations of an hour, I worked as a shop assistant, serving guests. It was a wonderful hour, especially when I was able to interact directly with customers who bought our CD.

Bon: It was very enjoyable as it brought up memories from when I was working as a shop assistant in other shops long time ago.

Starwave Records bands often work together on musical projects, which other artists from the label would you like to work with and what would you do together?

Shou: There aren't any at the moment I'd like to work with. There are still plenty of things that we would like to do on our own.

Bon: On the contrary, I would want to collaborate with any kind of artist. It could be a band from the same label, or even artists or designers. I'll be glad to work with anyone just as long as we can produce good work together.

You've recently performed in Canada, your very first live outside of Japan, how was that experience for you?

Shou: It was extremely enjoyable. I'd love to do it again!

Bon: That was our first trip and gig overseas. It was so much fun that I can't help but wish that we can go back soon!

When you were in Canada you posed with a lot of cosplayers. Are you yourself cosplay or anime fans? If so, which character would you like to cosplay yourself?

Shou: I'm a fan. I love battle type games, therefore I'd like to cosplay a battle game character.

Bon: Me too. I love anime, manga and games. I even talked to Syou-kun about cosplaying together at the next anime convention if we are invited to make an appearance *laughs*.

Will we be able to welcome you in Europe soon?

Shou: Unfortunately, there aren't any plans for a European tour at the moment. It'll be great if there is a chance to go there though!

Bon: Please invite us!

Fans often give presents to artists, what was the best gift you've ever received from a fan?

Shou: Letters.

Bon: I am happy to receive anything as long as it's not something that I dislike.

As a closing note, do you have a seasonal (holiday) message for our readers?

Bon: I would like to visit many countries so please listen to our CD if you are interested in our music. And I would like to perform in a concert in your country.

Shou: We are really happy to know that there are people who know and hold interest in this band known as Cappella from far-away Japan. Please continue to support us.

Official website: <http://project-ku.com>

Interview by Gloria and Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Akio Yokoyama.
Japanese Translations by Esther Huang and Kyde Lariel.
Many thanks to Bon and Shou of Capella and Kiwamu Kai.





ELEANOR

Melancholic Gothic Metal from Japan

LAST EDITION WE SPOKE TO JAPANESE MELANCHOLIC GOTHIC METAL BAND *ELEANOR* ABOUT THEIR MUSIC, THEIR LAST CD AND THEIR UPCOMING CONCERT AT THE 11TH EDITION OF THE WORLD REKNOWNED AND LEGENDARY *METAL FEMALE VOICES FEST* IN BELGIUM. AFTER THE CONCERT WE CAUGHT UP WITH THEM AGAIN TO TALK ABOUT THE FESTIVAL, BELGIUM AND OF COURSE THEIR PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE PLANS.

Earlier today you performed in Belgium for the first time, how do you feel about the festival, the audience and the live itself now?

We're very happy, the reactions we got from the crowd were much better than we expected. It was truly an amazing experience.

Have you been able to see the bands you wanted to see perform?

The bands we wanted to see that played so far we've all been able to catch performing live. Yesterday we saw *Kobra and the Lotus* and *Kontrast* and we're still looking forward to see *Anneke Van Giersbergen* later today. We're very happy we were able to do that, just like we're very happy to be here not just because we got to perform but also because we got to see live.

How would you compare *Metal Female Voices Fest* to metal events in Japan?

Metal Female Voices Fest is of a totally different scale than the Japanese events. It is much bigger and there are a lot more famous artists performing here.

Do you think performing at this festival will pave the way for more concerts in Belgium and a proper European tour?

Shark (drums): We hope so!

Shiori Vitus (lead vocals): I agree!

Ippei J. Malmsteen (lead guitar): I am available starting tomorrow *laughs*. Our target performing here was to introduce the music of *eleanor* to an international audience, and hopefully this will lead to us being able to return to Europe. It's very hard to come here by ourselves, so we need to be invited and booked. If that happens we will definitely return.

How much time are you going to spend in Belgium altogether this time and what do you hope to see of the country for sure?

Ippei: I only really thought about the Fest so I don't really know.

Shiori: We're staying in Brussels so probably the Grand Place.

Shark: I'd like to see works by *Rubens* and the *Hard Rock Cafe*. And if possible attend some technopop gigs.

Jet Rumi (back vocals and percussion): I'd like to visit the Grand Place and Hard Rock Café as well.

Takahiro Chihara (bass): I'd like to go to the *Hard Rock Market* not far from here.

Nao (rhythm guitar): I also only thought about performing here, so I'd just like to tour around a bit and see the landscapes and towns of Europe, aside from that I don't really have any sightseeing plans.

What has been your general impression of Belgium so far?

Shiori: It reminds me a little of *Sapporo*, because the roads are also very wide and it has a very laid back atmosphere.

Ippei: I thought more people in Belgium would speak English, but where we are staying it's not the case and everyone speaks French. I suppose we're staying in a hotel in a very French area of Brussels.

Shark: Belgian homes remind me a little of fairy tales because of the cobble stone streets and red brick houses.

What has impressed you the most so far of both Belgium and this festival?

The audience and their reaction to us, that was really hot.

How do you think this visit to Europe will influence your future works?

Ippei: We wanted to know what the reaction of the audience would be as we have Japanese lyrics combined with European style music. But I feel very accepted by the audience so I feel we can continue on this road with confidence from here onward.

Shark: I hope that a lot of people will post their positive reactions to our performance on the internet all over the world, so people in Japan will read them as well and we will gain more popularity at home as well. So promotion wise this live was really important as well to us.

How do you hope that your performance here at the festival will have inspired the audience?

Ippei: I think that the audience might not have known how to react at first because they maybe didn't know many Japanese bands or a lot of Japanese metal music, but we were accepted very warmly and welcomingly. So I also hope that the audience will tell their friends about *eleanor*.

What are your strongest beliefs when creating music?

Shark: Ippei writes the music so he should answer this.

Ippei: I mull things over in my head until I'm sure I can make it work, and until I really like the melody I will not compromise. It goes like this: first I will think out the melody, which is solely a mental process. Then I will hum the melody and record it using a voice recorder similar to the one you are using to record the interview (editor, for those curious we use a Sony digital voice recorder of the T-mark IC recorder series). From there on I will create the basic melody. All the ones I don't like I weed out, I don't compromise about that, the bad ones have to go. And from what's left we create actual songs.

Shark: We don't jam together, everything comes from Ippei's thinking process.

What are your plans for the rest of this year and the next?

Shiori: We have plans for lives in Osaka the rest of this year.

Ippei: There are no new songs being made at the moment but next year I will start writing new material for the band.

The next BCM is our annual holiday edition, how would you guys like to spend the end of the year holidays?

Shiori: Drinking *laughs*!

Ippei: I have not made specific plans for the holidays yet, right now I just want to go back to the hotel and cry because I am so moved by how successful the concert was and how warmly we were received by the audience. *This causes everyone to burst out into laughter.* No seriously, I am just really grateful right now *smiles*.

On a closing note, what fact would you like to tell our readers about *eleanor* that is not commonly known?

Shark: Takahiro likes women, so his second purpose of being here, the first being here to perform of course, is to meet Belgian ladies. *At this everyone starts laughing.*

Ippei: The crowd probably thought the girls in our band are cute, but in reality they can really drink *smiles and causes the girls to and laugh*.

Official website: www.eleanorjapan.com

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Japanese translation by Fumiko Matsumoto. Many thanks to *eleanor*, Fumiko Matsumoto and Helcanen.



BCM 読者の皆様へ

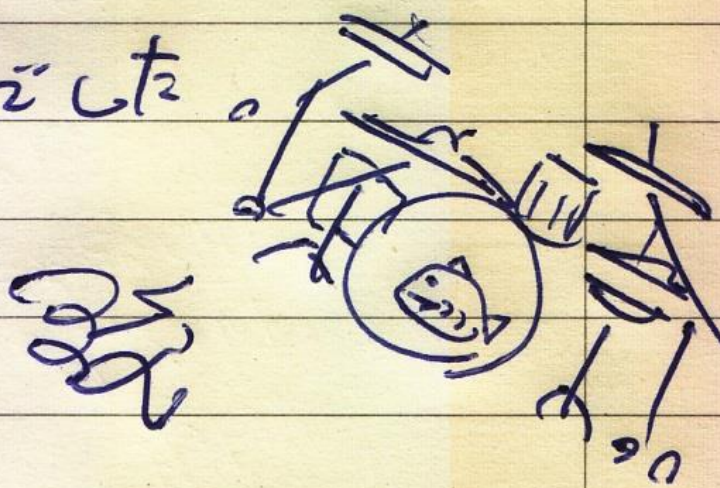
またベルギーへ来るよ!! Appei. J. M

楽しい時間をありがとう。 Shiori
また会いましょう。

どなたか女性の方話しかけて下さい Lupin

ベリーナイス。ナイスでした。

みなさん
ありがとう!!
また来るわー☆
Jet runi



ベルギーのみなさん アリガトウ!!
人生を楽しみましょう!

吉田直樹
エルペキター

ROUGE AERIE DESIGNS

carousels, rising nightmares
and much, much more!



ROUGE AERIE DESIGNS, OR *R.A.D.* FOR SHORT, IS THE BRILLIANT INDI LABEL OF TALENTED DESIGNER KATE, WHO TURNS FAIRY TALES, MYTHS AND LEGENDS INTO WHIMSICALLY FANTASTIC AND WONDERFUL CREATIONS THAT HAVE THRILLED LOLITA FASHION AFFECTIONADOS AROUND THE GLOBE. WITH HER LATEST DESIGN NIGHTMARE RISING HAVING BEEN PRE-RELEASED, WE SPOKE TO KATE.

If you were to describe *Rouge Aerie Designs* in just 5 words, which would those be?

Macabre twist to saccharine themes.

How did you first get involved in the Lolita fashion scene?

The short version of the story is, like a lot of Lolitas, through anime and J-rock. They were a weird gateway into crazy satin and lace stage costumes, which are quite a far cry from Lolita as it is today. Eventually, after fooling around in thrifted blouses and skirts made of questionable materials, I did some proper research and found out that there's more to Lolita than just Mana's outfits.

What inspired you to start your own Lolita clothing line and become a fashion designer? And did you study fashion design or are you self-taught?

When I first got into Lolita, I learned to sew to try to save money, as many new Lolitas do, and it took a while before I figured it all out. Really, there was no intention to start a brand for quite a long time. I just messed around, modifying patterns, or resizing and using existing patterns from *Gothic & Lolita Bibles* and old copies of the *Gosurori* mooks. Some of my relatives offered their own expertise here and there as well, but I primarily worked things out through tutorials online and sewing books from the library.

Eventually, I had an epiphany: the motifs I wanted to see didn't actually exist in fabric form. There were a lot of things that came close, but they were off the mark in some way, usually their colour scheme or the scale

of the images just wasn't quite right.

In 2009, I finished a graphic design degree that left me feeling unsatisfied. I worked in a press shop for a little over a year after that, hoping I would feel better for using my degree. During my time there, I came to the conclusion that I simply was not suited to graphic design in the strictest sense. I had already suspected as much for some time, so no one was very surprised.

It was after I left that position, and started working in a local fabric store, that I started on the *Carouskel* print. That fabric really was the launching point for everything in the end. It gave me something to do with both my passions and my expertise, without making me feel like I was missing some crucial piece. It took ages to complete due to some personal conflicts at the time, but during that process, I realised that I had found something I wanted to really be good at.

Your designs are quirky and often just a tad creepy cute but always fantastically original, what inspires you the most when thinking up new designs?

Ever since I was a kid, I have loved myths and fairy tales. Any time I'm stuck for an idea, I look to stories, especially old ones. Folklore tends to be full of motifs that work well when designing Lolita: mermaids, monsters, princesses and heroes all translate nicely onto fabric. Then, I really like to put a twist on the usual motifs, such that you have to look twice before it all sinks in. From a distance, most of my designs look pretty cute and quite tame. It's when you look at the details that you see something a little bit different and possibly unexpected!

You have designed prints with Cthulhu, mermaids and skeleton carousel animals, which kind of creature would you still like to turn into a print in the future?

At the moment, I'm working on designs which are a bit more conventionally Gothic. One incorporates bats as its primary motif and another design has ravens as the stars. Though both of those can easily fall into the realm of the Goth cliché, I'm hoping to avoid that by giving the dresses each a little bit of a different edge. As far as dream designs go, I would love to come up with something using a dragon or gryphon! So far, I ha-



ven't been satisfied with my attempts to use either as a motif, but maybe someday soon I'll get it right. It might also be fun to have some harpies in a print one day.

Could you tell us a little more about your current and upcoming releases *Nightmare Rising* and *Mermaids' Treasure*?

The *Nightmare Rising* print, which is currently available for reservation, is named of course for *Cthulhu*, and is based around a specific sketch done by H.P. Lovecraft. The design incorporates the jointed, narrow wings Lovecraft describes as well as the great, lumpy, tentacled head as its primary design element. The illustration I created is produced as a metallic ink screenprint on the skirt, offset from the centre. Keeping with the idea that *Cthulhu* is a water being in the Lovecraftian lore, I used a nautical theme and gave the dress a sailor silhouette, stripes and collar. To give the dress that extra little bit of impact, I used bat wing scallops in back to resemble *Cthulhu*'s wings on the front of the dress.

As for *Mermaids' Treasure*, the sample JSK and the upcoming colourways are still a secret for now! The print itself features three very charming sirens, clad in the loot stolen from sunken merchant ships. Originally, the design had two mermaids and an eel wrapped through a skull. Unfortunately, I had quite a lot of trouble with those files after my first printing draft with *Spoonflower*, and had to start over from scratch. Thankfully, the results have received quite a bit of favourable critique.

Will the prints for your upcoming designs be available on Spoonflower again like *Carouskel* was?

I do have plans for fabrics to be released through Spoonflower again, but for now, I'm focusing on my manufactured lines. For the next few series, I have very specific ideas about how I would like the dress designs to incorporate the prints, so they will not be released as fabric. I'm afraid that I am being a little bit selfish in that regard this time.

You recently went to London to show at *Frock On* and *London Edge*, how did these experiences influence you for the future designs and evolution of your brand?

They were both really amazing experiences, especially *Frock On*! Because the event was hectic, I didn't get to take in as much as I would have liked to and mostly was running around behind the scenes, but I did get to see so many other amazing designers' work when we were preparing for the fashion shows. It was a real pleasure to be able to 'ooh' and 'ahh' over their designs, and talk to a few of the creators in person. There are so many unique perspectives when it comes to Lolita, and many very talented designers attended *Frock On*!

What was the most awesome thing at both?

The whole week was such a whirlwind that it is a bit difficult to pinpoint the *most awesome* thing I saw. However, something that left a very strong impression upon me was one of the performances at *London Edge*. There was a young woman at *London Edge* who did several aerial hoop performances on our first day exhibiting. She goes by *Cirquedeta-sha* on *instagram*. Her routine depicted the coming-to-life of a music box ballerina and was a beautiful mixture of grace and strength. I don't generally react so strongly to that sort of performance, but something about her routine flipped a switch in my brain. As soon as she finished her routine, I rushed back to the stall for paper and a pen so I could sketch the ideas that had popped into my head. So while I'm not sure if it was the most awesome thing at the two events, it's definitely something that has stuck with me!

Would you say the European Lolita scene differs a lot from the Australian one?

This is actually rather difficult to answer, as I only had the opportunity to see such a slim portion of the European community at *Frock On*! Everyone that I spoke to was extremely friendly, however, which I find is common regardless of geographical circumstances at large events.

Which other J-fashion styles do you like aside from Lolita, and could you see yourself make any designs in those styles at some point?

Oh dear. My tastes in general are fairly eclectic, which makes it difficult to choose. I have a massive soft spot for *mori* girl, particularly when executed in darker colours like chocolate brown or wine reds and black. You can find a fairy tale aesthetic in many *mori* coordinates, which suits my personal design methods well.

I am also very fond of many of the designs from brands like *Na+H* and *H.Naoto*, particularly *GRAMM* and *Blood*. I really would love to draw on the variety of textures used in those styles for future pieces, especially the way that layering and deconstructed pieces play such vital roles!

Could you tell us a little about your plans for the end of this year and 2014?

I am sending a couple of dresses to *PMX* in Los Angeles, California this November for the fashion show and *Hellocon* in Helsinki, Finland in February. I also plan to submit an application to send pieces to *Frill by Affiliation* in Atlanta, Georgia for next year and hope to participate in a few other events as well but they remain to be confirmed. As far as prints go, I'm working on those two dresses I mentioned utilising raven and bat motifs, but I'm also planning a revamped version of the *Carouskel* print for manufactured release. I was unable to provide many dresses in its first incarnation, so I'm cleaning it up, taking on board a bit of the critique people gave the first version, and will be producing pieces for large scale purchase.

What do you hope for the most for Rouge Aerie Designs' future?

Ambition has never been my strong suit, but I really do want to see the brand grow and spread all over the world. The Facebook page has fans from places I never dreamed it would reach. I would love to for that spread to increase and for production to eventually reach a point where releasing a dress per month is viable. There have been a few rough patches in R.A.D.'s history, but I hope that I can continue to overcome the obstacles in front of me.

This edition of BCM is our annual holiday edition, how would you like to spend your holidays this year?

Generally, I like quiet holidays and most of my partner's family agrees. Australian summers can get pretty brutal, so we generally spend Christmas around the pool with family. Last year we went to visit his in-laws at a little resort town in the north of New South Wales, which was much more hectic. This year, I think we'd rather have a bit less hustle and bustle. We have talked about seeing the New Year's Eve fireworks in the Harbour in person, though. Maybe this year, he and I will head down there for the night. We'll see!

What would be the best holiday gift you could receive?

Bath bombs and tea for stress relief! In all seriousness, and as cheesy as it may sound, the smiles and happiness of my partner's niece and nephew, and my own nephew are my favourite gifts each year. The holidays, particularly Christmas, are more about the kids' wants, and being able to spoil them a little bit feels like a gift in itself!

As a closing note, do you have a seasonal (holiday) message for our readers?

This time of year can be very stressful and emotional. Remember to take some time out for yourself, too! Put on your favourite holiday flick for an evening, pour yourself a glass of cider/chocolate/your beverage of choice. Hot or cold, as per your hemisphere, put your feet up, and relax. You can wrap those presents and write those cards in the morning. Happy Holidays!



Official website: <http://rouge-aerie.com>

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RougeAerie

Nightmare Rising is available for preorder up to November 3rd, for more information, check any of the above links.

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Kate of Rouge Aerie Designs, depicting the *Nightmare Rising* series.

CUPCAKE FOCUS:

Joke



JOKE MAY ONLY HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE *BELGIAN CUPCAKES* LOLITA FASHION GROUP, IN THAT SHORT TIME SHE'S STUNNED THE BELGIAN LOLITA COMMUNITY WITH HER OWN, OFTEN ORIGINAL, TAKE ON THE STYLE AND SKILL AS A CRAFTER AND COSPLAYER AT CONVENTIONS. HIGH TIME TO PUT THE FOCUS ON HER!

You joined the Belgian Cupcakes about a year ago, were you wearing J-fashion before that?

That's right! I joined the forum somewhere in July or August I think, and I went to my first Cupcake meet in October, in the woods. But no, I didn't wear J-fashion before that time.

What got you interested in Japanese fashion at first and Lolita in particular?

I can't really pinpoint it... but being active on sites like *Deviantart* and *Gaiaonline* must've played its part. I spent lots of time drawing and looking at pretty avatars on *Gaiaonline*, and got better at coordinating, although they were virtual, outfits. On *deviantart* I saw lots of original characters who wore Lolita, and the general aesthetics of the fashion spoke to me.

Which Lolita and J-fashion styles that you've not worn yet would you still like to try out in the future?

I really want to wear proper Classic Lolita in the future! And maybe Hime-Lolita as well. I also love Mori-kei and Dolly-kei, and if I find the right garments, I'd love to try it.



Are there any styles, both Lolita and J-fashion in general, you'd never wear?

I don't see myself wearing Visual-kei as it's too 'edgy' for me personally. That doesn't mean I dislike the style though, it's just not for me. And anything Sweet that's purely soft pastels like light purple, baby blue, light pink,... as it just doesn't suit my skintone and I got into Lolita because I love how I feel pretty in it! Wearing colours that don't suit me wouldn't make me look any prettier I think.

Are you into other things from Japan other than the fashion?

I am always attracted to cute stuff, and a lot of things coming from Japan can be cute! Does cosplay count?

You're an avid cosplayer, which of the cosplays you've done so far is your personal favourite and which is your ultimate dream cosplay you hope to do some day?

One of my favourites is *Belle*, from *Beauty and the Beast*, in her ballgown. Simply because wearing a ballgown is so awesome, and I feel really proud of my work on the dress. I based the bodice on an existing wedding dress pattern, and drafted the skirt part from scratch. I even hid pockets in the lining for my keys and wallets and phone! Because you can't walk around in a ballgown and a purse, right? The reactions I got were also really nice, from fellow cosplayers and from the general public! I guess people will always have a soft spot for Disney!

Do you have a dream print?

Innocent World's *Lotta*! Perfect combination of whimsical and elegance! And the colours are sooo pretty! There might be more prints, but I don't have a list written down. *Lotta* just came to mind first.

You're very artistic, making your own garments and accessories, if you were to design your own print, what would it look like and how would the coord you make with it look?

Tough question. I haven't really thought about it. It would probably be a border print though. Maybe with my favourite flower, the lily of the valleys on it? And poppies! It would be greens and whites, with some dashes of poppy red. Flower crown, pearl necklace, lace gloves, white granny boots. A coord for spring!

You've worn Lolita in several Belgian cities, how would you say people in general react to the fashion?

Some are nice, some are weird, some are rude. I just like to focus on the nice comments, as I believe in positivity in life *grins*.

What do you like most about your local community?

That everyone is nice, and when meeting up, there's always fun conversation! Even though I still consider myself a fairly 'new' member, I feel very welcomed and accepted, you girls are all so nice!

If you could change one thing about the international Lolita community in general, what would it be?

Nothing!

in a nutshell

Name: Joke

Forum nick: Joke

Age: 27

Styles: Gothic, Casual.

Favourite brands: Innocent World and
Haenuli

Wearing Lolita fashion since: July 2012

Goggles, customised vintage. Frames, Theo.
Top, Hema. Waistcoat, House of Secrets
Incorporated. Pauldron, Andracor. Bracer,
Poorman's Gold Label. Bag, Cambridge
Satchel Company. Thin belt, Moda.
Fan holster, Poorman's Gold Label.
Fan, model's own. Toy gun, customised
Marf Jolt. Belt, Veritas.
Spare pockets, Alt.Kilt. Skirt,
handmade. Petticoat, Dear Celine.
Stockings, We Love Colors.
Spats, House of Secrets
Incorporated. Shoes, Secret Shop.



New Paradigm Dalek, Dalek Scientist.
Episode: Victory of the Daleks.

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The Fourth Doctor.



Woolfelt hat, Asos. Frames, Theo. 4th Doctor style scarf, H&M. Blouse, Asos. Denim waistcoat, House of Secrets Incorporated. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, American Apparel. Nylons, Insua. Suede boots, Schuh. 4th Doctor Sonic Screwdriver, series official merchandising, bought at Forbidden Planet, London, UK.



The Ninth Doctor.



Hair accessories, Primark and H&M. Leather jacket, Orsay. Blouse, Dolly + Dolly. Watch, Tchibo. Skirt, Boguta. Tights, C&A. Boots, Deichmann.

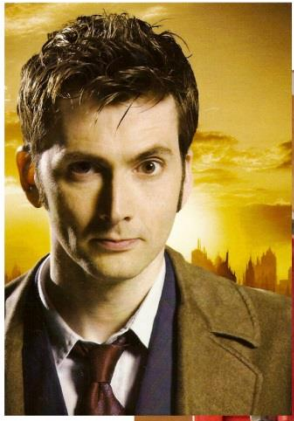
Hairband, Veritas. Frames € 380.
Double sided cotton wrap shawl, House of Secrets
Incorporated. Faux leather jacket, H&M.
T-shirt with ruffled sleeves, H&M. Cotton bag,
Pull and Bear. Skirt with tea party and sonic
screwdriver print, handmade with fabric from
Spoonflower.com. Petticoat, Dear Celine.
Boots, Schuh.



The Ninth Doctor.







The 10th Doctor.
Episode: Silence in the Library.



Frames, Theo. Shirt, L.O.G.G. for H&M. Tie, De Krinkel. Cardigan, Primark. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, Dear Celine. Tights, American Apparel. Sneakers, Converse.



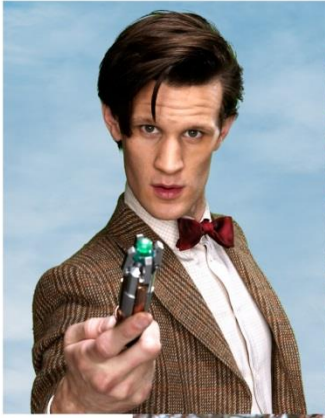
Gasmask Zombie.
Episodes: The Empty Child/The Doctor Dances.



The Eleventh Doctor.



Hairband, Hema. Frames, Theo. Bow tie, Emergency Bow Tie. Blazer, Asos. Shirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, Dear Celine. Leggings, House of Secrets Incorporated. Boots, Forever 21. 11th Doctor Sonic Screwdriver, series official merchandising.



The Eleventh Doctor.



Flower hairclips, Veritas. Frames, local optician. Bow tie, For Men. Blazer, 3Suisses. Blouse, Pimkie. Cotton one zipper skirt with tea print, House of Secrets Incorporated. Ball jointed doll tights, Lockshop Wigs. Fold over woolen kneesocks, Bonnie Doon. Boots, Sasha. 11th Doctor Sonic Screwdriver, series official merchandising.



Hairband, Hema. Frames, Theo. Silence (Silent Comedy) print t-shirt, Teefury. Teacup ring, Angelic Pretty. Bracelet, Fossil. Skirt, customised Bodyline (Antique Clock). Petticoat, Dear Celine. Lace detail socks, Asos. Ballerinas with studs and ankle straps, La Redoute.

FAVOURERED FILMOGRAPHY

Reviews by Ish, Shinya and Valerie Vliegen



Kazoku Game
Country of origin: Japan
Director: Hiromasa Yonebayashi
Nr of episodes: 10

A seemingly perfect family searches help for their youngest son, *Shigeyuki*, who has stopped going to school and now lives shut-in inside his bedroom. This help comes in the form of *Yoshimoto Koya*, a private tutor who claims he can make Shigeyuki return to school in a week in return for a bonus. The only rule the family must follow is that they cannot intervene with his methods. From here on their quiet life is finished. Soon they begin to learn Yoshimoto's character, a wacky unpredictable tutor with unusual techniques. *Kazoku Game's* (family game) theme is to question the handling of today's Japanese society. It is based on the novel with the same name by *Honma Yohei*. The opening scene immediately sets the atmosphere of this drama. Tension is build and the writers know exactly where to stop. This is one of those rare drama series where you can't really predict what is going to happen. No rich-poor romance, no accidental meetings, none of those typical drama clichés, which was refreshing. *Kazoku Game* kept me hooked. The layers of the different subplots get unraveled episode after episode. You slowly get to know the pieces of the big puzzle that is Yoshimoto's past. The actors were great overall. As expected from the child wonder *Kamiki Ryunosuke* (playing the eldest son) not one of his scenes are overacted. *Sakurai Sho* (playing the tutor) had a few scenes where he went a bit overboard with his psycho acting but most of the time he was great in character. This role is so opposite of the public image he holds are a idol newscaster. But Sakurai also won the award for best actor which is recognition for his acting. *Kazoku game* won different awards including best director, best actor, best music and best drama twice. The intro is very amusing to watch as you can see Yoshimoto sensei making his way to different places in Japan, accompanied by a tune which will get stuck in your head. You will cry, you will scream and you will laugh. This drama has it all.



Guinea Pig: Mermaid in a Manhole
(ザ・ギニーピッグ マンホールの中の - 人魚 *Za Ginī Piggū: Manhōru no naka no Ningyō*)
Director: Hideshi Hino
Year of release: 1988

First a little background on this series. *The Guinea Pig* movies are a collection of seven Japanese gore movies released in the second half of the 1980s. They were, and to some degree are still, known for their gruesome and extremely gory content. To the point where the makers had to prove to the authorities that no one was killed or otherwise harmed to make the first two. Due to ongoing controversy about this series, it's reached the point where it has been discontinued in Japan, but it's still available in a whole slew of other countries so fairly easy to get in several region editions.

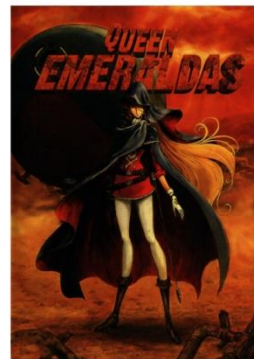
You could think of this somewhat as the Japanese predecessor to the infamous US *Masters of Horror* series, but these are generally speaking still more disgusting. That all said and done, today I'd like to take the time to talk about my personal favourite, the fourth in the series.

Mermaid in a Manhole's screenplay isn't only based on the manga with the same title by artist *Hideshi Hino*, it is also directed by him. The story follows an artist who is struggling to cope with the death of his wife and ends up in the Okinawan sewers. There he re-encounters the mermaid he once met before as a child. Sadly she's gotten stuck in the chemical mess that her new home is, with gruesome health issues as the result.

The artist decides to take her home and the gore just keeps on getting gorier by the minute. Oh and there's some "art" involved in the process.

If you like Japanese gore movies, watch this. If you have a week stomach or no particular penchant for horror movies, it's probably best to avoid it.

Mature audiences only, obviously.



Queen Emeraldas
(クィーン・エメラルダス - Kuīn Emerarudasu)
Country of origin: Japan
Director: Yuji Asada
Year of release: 1998-1999

Queen Emeraldas is a four episode pirate space opera OVA that is part of the same universe as the well known characters *Maetel* and *Captain Harlock* by the same creator, *Leiji Matsumoto*.

Following the adventures of the space pirate vessel the *Queen Emeraldas*, named after her captain it's a spin-off of the the *Galaxy Express 999* series and movies. Time wise, the events from the *Emeraldas* OVA take place five years after those in the last *Galaxy Express 999* movie. You don't have to have seen the *Galaxy Express 999* franchise to be able to fully grasp the story of this release, but it does help. Unless you wish to find out more about her origin of course, then it's necessary to check out the rest of the *Leijiverse* releases, chaotic as those can be when it comes to chronology.

It follows the story of *Hiroshi Umino*, a young boy on his own in the universe, getting onto a freighter to leave earth as a stow-away. Several misfortunes and quite a bit of space combat later, he ends up alive and well enough on a planet which is the spitting image of a wild west town from times long past. *Emeraldas* shows up, not only to save the proverbial day, but also to give the boy a very special gift. Aside from *Emeraldas* functioning as a sort of guide and protector, it is also kind of a coming of age story of our young hero, who must fend for himself in a new and dangerous world with a cast of misfits and unlikely friends, allies and enemies.

As far as space opera type stories go, this one is excellent, it has that same awesome future-west feel you often get from excellent stories such as the *Firefly/Serenity* series, mixed in with the kind of pirate-with-the-heart-in-the-right-place element that make a lot of the classic buccaneer movies so epic.

FAVOURERED LITERATURE

Reviews by Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen.

First, a little background on the artist... *Riyoko Ikeda*: "Who is *Riyoko Ikeda*?", you might ask. Born in 1947, she grew up to become one of the most influential mangaka's of the 1970s. Ikeda is also a well-known Japanese feminist and has pursued a musical career. You might also recognize her style from our beloved *Gothic&Lolita Bible*, as she is the cover artist for volumes 11 to 21. Ikeda's manga's focus on female sexuality and gender issues, often in a historical and foreign setting. Androgyny plays an important part in her stories. Her most famous work is *The Rose of Versailles*, also known as *Lady Oscar* in Belgium. Other well-known titles include *Brother, dear Brother*, *Orpheus' Window* and *The Glory of Napoleon – Eroica*. As with most older manga, it takes a while to get used to her drawing style: the typical old-school *shoujo* style. It has however aged well and remains absolutely stunning.



The Rose of Versailles
(ベルサイユのばら -
Berusaiyu no Bara)
Country of origin: Japan
Year of release: 1972-1973

18th century France: a whirlwind of change is about to blow through the country. A girl is born, the last child of *General Jarjayes*, commander of the Royal Guard. Desperate that he'll never have a son, Jarjayes decides to raise his newborn daughter as a man and thus names her *Oscar François de Jarjayes*. Fourteen years later, Oscar becomes the bodyguard of the newly arrived dauphine of France, *Marie-Antoinette*. They form a lasting friendship, still unknowing of all the hardships and mistakes that will ultimately lead to the French Revolution.

The manga follows Marie-Antoinette's life, seen through Oscar's eyes, and gives an interesting and fairly accurate interpretation of France's history. Marie-Antoinette is not the uncaring, selfish queen, as she is often portrayed as, but a confused young woman, locked in a gilded cage and estranged from her own people. As the story shifts from Marie-Antoinette to Oscar's own life, we get to see a journey unfold about a person torn into two: male or female, queen or country, love or duty?

This series is a *shoujo* classic. The anime is fairly loyal to the original manga. If you are interested in the French Revolution and the life of Marie-Antoinette, the history of manga and anime or in a series about gender performativity and other similar issues, give it a try.

This story has been adapted to several other media, like anime, musicals (by the all-female Takarazuka Revue), live-action... The opening song has also been covered by the Visual key band *Lareine*. The original manga ran for ten volumes, which the English edition kept intact, and the French edition condensed them into three dictionary-sized volumes. The anime consists out of forty episodes.



Brother, dear Brother
(おにいさまへ... -
Onii-sama e...)
Country of origin: Japan
Year of release: 1975

Nanako Misonoo's start of high school life is not without its problems. The school she is attending is a prestigious one, where social pressure plays an important role among its students. At the middle of it all stands the *Sorority*, a student club for the elite of the school. Only those of rich families with perfect grades and reputation can become a member, and membership is very desirable among the students. *Nanako*, to everyone's surprise, gets chosen as a member, despite not fulfilling the requirements. Because of this, she ends up in a world of jealousy, rivalry and plotting. We follow the story through the letters she sends to an old teacher, who's like a big brother to her.

This story is a tragic one. It deals with issues like lesbianism, incest, social pressure, suicide, terminal illness, drug abuse etc.

The manga and anime are very different. While the anime is darker in general and the drama is more emphasized, it ends on a happier note than the manga. The drama in the manga feels more natural, and the resolutions are more satisfying despite being tragic (though that is a matter of taste).

The manga doesn't have an official English translation yet. A French edition exists, which turned the original three volumes into one. The anime consists out of 39 episodes. A fun fact about this series: the French television channel *TF1* bought it after only seeing the first episode, thinking it was an innocent story for children and young teens. After airing seven heavily edited episodes, they decided it was impossible to childproof the series and cancelled it.

Publishing information.

The *Rose of Versailles* manga is available in English by *Sanyusha* and in French by *Kana*. The anime has been recently republished in America by *NOZOMI/LUCKY PENNY*.

Onii-sama e doesn't have an English publication yet, but both manga and anime have been released in French by *Éditions Asuka* and *Kaze*. The anime is not legally available in full yet to English audiences, but *Viki.com* and *Anime Sols* are working on changing that.

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Billet Zen : 37€ (limité à 250 places)
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Combicket 3 dagen : €29 (enkel in voorverkoop)
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EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

NOVEMBER 2013

Japan Expo Belgium

Date: 1 - 3

Venue: Tour & Taxis

City: Brussels

Country: Belgium

<http://www.japan-expo.be>



LOKA on tour

2: Werkstatt, Cologne, Germany

3: Japan Expo Belgium, Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium

5: REPLUGGED, Vienna, Austria

7: Moko, Lyon, France

8: Rock Box, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

9: Covent Garden, Paris, France

10: Frontline, Ghent, Belgium

11: Musicon, The Hague, The Netherlands

12: Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France

www.ramen-events.com

LOKA

LOKA DEVA's TOUR 2013

30.10 - Munich@Garage Deluxe (Germany)
 02.11 - Cologne@Die Werkstatt (Germany)
 03.11 - Brussels@Japan Expo (Belgium)
 05.11 - Vienna@REPLUGGED (Austria)
 07.11 - Lyon@Moko (France)
 08.11 - Luxembourg@Rock Box (Luxembourg)
 09.11 - Eragny(Paris)@Covent Garden (France)
 10.11 - Gent@The Frontline (Belgium)
 11.11 - Den Haag@Musicon (The Netherlands)
 12.11 - Roubaix@Bar Live 301 (France)

www.ramen-events.com

HALLOWEEN at Schloss

Heinrichshorst

The Noble Blood Vampire Chronicles
 Book release party & Halloween Ball

Date: 2

Venue: Castle Heinrichshorst

City: Rögatz

Country: Germany

<http://www.viona-art.com>

Emporium Vernesque

Date: 16

Venue: Willemeen

City: Arnhem

Country: the Netherlands

www.emporiumvernesque.com



Nippon Zasshi's 5th anniversary

Date: 16

Venue: CC Rix

City: Deurne

Country: Belgium

www.nipponzasshi.be



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Wat? Games, Workshops, Tombola, Snacks, Exhibition

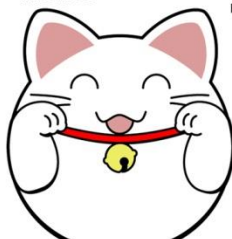
Waar? CC Rix

Frans Messingstraat 36,

2100 Deurne

Hoe? Tram 5 tot halte

Ten Eekhovellei



VU: Nick Hoffman
 Hillarestraat 189, 9160 Lokeren
 Niet op de openbare weg gooien

Double tour of

HITT and Ryo Fujimura

23: Anim'Est, Nancy, France

24: BJC pichon, Nancy, France

28: Garage Deluxe, Munich, Germany

29: Rock Box, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

30: 6th Anniversary of Râmen Events, Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France

www.ramen-events.com

DECEMBER 2013

Annual Belgian Cupcakes

Christmas Lolita Fashion meet

Date: 1

Venue: Brussels Central Station at the ticket area, noon prompt

City: Brussels

Country: Belgium

belgiancupcakes.proboards.com

Double tour of

HITT and Ryo Fujimura

1: 6th Anniversary of Râmen Events, 330 Live, Den Hague, The Netherlands

6: Le Maquis, Besançon, France

7: TBC, Paris, France

8: LR6, Brussels, Belgium

www.ramen-events.com

Archeon Midwinter Fair

Date: 7 - 8

Venue: Archeon

City: Alphen-aan-den-Rijn

Country: The Netherlands

www.archeon.nl/midwinterfair

MARCH 2014

Made in Asia

Date: 14 - 16

Venue: Brussels Expo

City: Laeken

Country: Belgium

www.madeinasia.be

COALESCAREMONIUM

Date: 29

Venue: the old monastery "Bouche à Oreille"

City: Brussels

Country: Belgium

www.coalescaremonium.info

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More info: ANTWERPCONVENTION.BE

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Happy Lolita
Day!



BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



INNOCENT WORLD TEA PARTY SNAP

Saturday, October 12 - Schick Hotel Stefanie - Vienna - Austria

Photography by and provided by Anso Vermeylen.



SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline. Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get a piece in, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance. So you're actually doing me a favour by submitting as soon as possible/before deadline.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute and our readers.

2. Deadlines

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.

The deadline for issue 16 is **December 24th**.

Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of December 25th the will not appear in the magazine. Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.

Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc.

If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be **at least** 2000 pixels and jpg files, the bigger the better! (e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit). Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.

Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!

ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).

That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proof readers and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be BCM # 16,
spanning the months
January and February 2013.

Fashion

Style Spotlight: Twinning!

Twinning J-fashion feature

We are still looking for photo submission for this feature.
So if you have a good quality high resolution photo of yourself and a friend
(or several friends) twinning, please don't hesitate to send it in!
Any J-fashion style goes! Twinning is not just for Lolitas after all!

Love fashion feature

Valentine's Day is around the corner so we'd like to dedicate a J-fashion
feature entirely to the holiday of St-amour.
Want to participate? Send in that photo!
And more!

J-Music Corner

CD reviews

Concert reviews

Interviews with

BLUE CLOUD

LOKA

HITT

Lifestyle

Event reviews

Belgian Cupcakes Lolita fashion meets

Japan Expo Belgium

Fly Away Fashion tea party

Ramen Event's 6th anniversary!

(congratulations to them!)

Midwinter Fair

and several more!

And much, much more!

If you want to be featured in any of our outfit snaps,
send in a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion (any style allowed),
or come pose for us if you see a photographer of BCM at an event
and you may very well see yourself in the next Snap!

And more...

Greeting card with art by Annso

Exclusive art by Margot Van Malderen!





Jill of Rose Noire.

Live at ArtisM Event: Alamode Night, Live Inn Rosa, Ikebukuro, Tokyo, Japan, April 14 2013

© Photo by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be).